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# U.S. CATTLEMEN VISIT ALBERTA ON GOODWILL TOUR

A recent visit to Alberta, August 22 to 25, by five prestigious cattlemen representing different facets of the U.S. cattle industry, specifically the Pacific Northwest, is of great interest to Alberta cattlemen because of the important market potential for beef cattle and meat to the Pacific Northwest.

The five visitors included two representatives from the Pacific International Livestock Exposition Inc., Earl A. Smith, president and chairman of the executive committee and Dick Rathburn, general manager. The other three individuals were from the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Sam Dement, president, Donald Ostensoe, executive vice president and Bill Ross, past president.

David Rous, Alberta Agriculture's international trade director for the U.S., explained that the visit had two purposes. Primarily, the visit was a goodwill tour to promote the Pacific International Livestock Exposition taking place in Portland, Oregon, October 9 to 16. Equally important, these prominent individuals wished to observe our industry and take part in an exchange of ideas and discussion of common problems facing the development of the cattle industry.

To this end, the group had a busy itinerary for their four-day visit.

The response to a tour of a number of cattle operations was one of admiration for Alberta's fine stock. The tour included Shawest Farms (Simmentals) southeast of Edmonton, the Jack Olsen feedlot near Red Deer, Highland Stock Farms Ltd. (Limousin and Angus) near Calgary as well as visits arranged by Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA) to Hereford and Brown Swiss breeders in the Cochrane area.

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U.S. Cattlemen Visit Alberta On Goodwill Tour (cont'd)

After a meeting with members of Edmonton Northlands Exhibition Associatio the group toured the ground and was impressed by the existing facilities and the new Agri-complex at the Edmonton Northlands Exhibition grounds. A similar meeting and tour were arranged in Calgary with the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Association and representatives from the Alberta Cattle Breeders Association and Round-up Livestock Show. They were similarly impressed with these facilities and hoped that their state government could be as supportive as our provincial government in assisting with the construction and operation of these shows.

The itinerary also included a meeting with members of the Alberta Cattle Commission to share views on tariff barriers, beef grading and promotional activities.

"Why aren't we one country?" was the sentiment expressed by the U.S. group when they realized how similar the objectives and problems of the Canadian cattle industry were to their own. They also concluded that the excursion had been worthwhile in cementing relations between Oregon cattlemen and Alberta cattlemen.

Mr. Rous hopes for a reciprocal visit wherein a broad spectrum of our cattle industry could tour facilities and exchange views with cattlemen from the Pacific Northwest and the Western U.S.

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## AWARDS OFFERED FOR PROJECTS UNDER THE GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM

Under the Graduate Student Research Support Program, a sub-program of Farming for the Future, eighteen projects have been offered awards totalling $23,650.

The awards are for the purpose of supporting and encouraging graduate student research in the agricultural sciences. Through the program the training of new scientists in the agricultural field will be encouraged as well as the development of new agricultural technology.

The following projects have been offered awards under the program.

| Project Title | Applicant |
|---|---|
| Pathogenesis of nervous signs associated with bovine Enteric Coccidiosis | Catherine Isler |
| Design and control of air inlets for ventilation of animal housing | Jeremy Leonard |
| Isolation and characterization of IBRV specific glycoproteins and their relationship to immune recognition | Sylvia van den Hurk |
| Comparison of evaluation techniques used in meat research | Phyllis Shand |
| The effect of live weight and fat loss on sow performance and productivity | Erika Weltzien |
| Effect of diet and cooking method on the quality attributes and chemical composition of beef from bulls | Mary McKinley |
| Energy expenditure on ion transport in intestinal epithelium and liver in sheep and cattle | Brian McBride |
| Fat mobilization in dairy cows in early lactation | Elaine Sexton |
| Bioenergetics of wapiti | William Watkins |
| Margin analysis and trends in consumer demand for Alberta red meats and poultry | James MacArthur |
| Cytological and biochemical characterization of the potential B. genome donors of common wheat, *Triticum aestivum* | Kent Kerby |
| Implications to Alberta of remaining independent or participating in the National Chicken Marketing Plan | Meghann Douglas |

- (cont'd) -

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Awards Offered For Projects Under The
Graduate Student Research Support Program (cont'd)

| Project Title | Applicant |
|---|---|
| Patterns of fat deposition in mice selected for high six week body weight | R. Keith Salmon |
| Development of chemical methods for predicting protein quality (degradability) in dairy cow rations | Bonnie Kirkpatrick |
| The effects of long-term forage and grain production on luvisolic soils | Klaas Broersma |
| Study of pretest and on-test performance of R.O.P. boars | Bruce Allan |
| Crossfostering as a measure of direct and indirect genetic effects in three lines of mice | David Bailey |
| Effects of boar exposure on puberty induction of the young gilt | Franklin Evans |

For more information on the program or individual projects contact the Secretary, Farming for the Future, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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## 1982 CUSTOM SILAGE SURVEY RATES

Custom silage costs for 1982 have increased slightly from the 1981 survey rates, reports Cheryl Porteous of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch.

Since the northern portion of the province has few livestock operators, the survey ranges are given for three provincial regions. Region 1 is the area from the USA border to Calgary, Region 2 is the area from Calgary to Olds, and Region 3 is the area from Olds to Camrose.

### Swathing Costs ($ per acre)

| | 1982 | Most Common Charge for 1982 |
|---|---|---|
| Region 1 | — | — |
| Region 2 | $ 6 per acre ($30 per tonne) | (one report) |
| Region 3 | $ 4.50 - $ 7.00 ($22.50 - $35 per tonne) | $6.50 - $7.00 |

The 1981 surveyed rates for swathing were $2.50 - $7.50 per acre.

### Forage Harvesting and Hauling ($ per tonne)

| | 1982 | Most Common Charge for 1982 |
|---|---|---|
| Region 1 | $ 6.25 - $ 9.00 ($31.25 - $45 per hour) | $6.25 - $6.75 |
| Region 2 | $ 6.25 - $ 6.35 ($31.25 - $31.75 per hour) | — |
| Region 3 | $ 5.25 ($30 per hour) | (one report) |

In 1981, the forage hauling survey rates were $24 - $31 per hour and forage harvesting costs were $60 - $100 per hour.

Most custom operators will charge for a complete operation. This charge usually covers the cost of cutting, hauling and ensiling and occasionally the cost of swathing the forage.

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1982 Custom Silage Survey Rates (cont'd)

| | Complete Operation Costs ($ per hour) | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1982 | Most Common Charge for 1982 |
| Region 1 | $90 - $150<br>($18 - $30 per tonne) | |
| Region 2 | $135 - $215<br>($ 8.75 per tonne) | $160 - $190 |
| Region 3 | $96 - $210<br>($19.20 - $42 per tonne) | $ 96 - $115 |

Complete system charges for 1981 ranged from $9.00 - $34.00 per tonne, which works out to approximately $45 - $170 per hour.

This information is compiled annually by Unifarm monitors in co-operation with Alberta Agriculture. For further information contact your local district agriculturist or the Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

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## BEAT THE RUSH – FEED TEST EARLY

Beat the rush and submit your feed sample for analysis as early as possible. In order to get early results submit your samples before late fall and early winter, when all your neighbors are submitting their samples.

This timely advice comes from Ron Weisenburger of Alberta Agriculture's animal industry division who says that much of this year's hay crop can be expected to be of less than average feeding value as a result of summer weather conditions. In parts of the province drought severely reduced available feed supplies, while in other parts of the province heavy rain in July resulted in delayed harvesting and weathering of a considerable amount of this year's hay crop.

In order to determine the actual feeding value of your feeds they should be analysed for nutrient content. If you have the results of your feed analysis before the feeding period begins, your feed test results will assist in developing the best possible feeding program for your livestock.

The proper application of feed test results will allow you to optimize your feed resources. Underfeeding livestock will limit their production; overfeeding livestock will be a waste of resources. Feed test results will help to determine what supplements to use and in what quantities in the ration. If you want assistance in developing a feeding program you can make use of Alberta Agriculture's ration advisory service. This service is provided by highly qualified nutritionists and is free for the asking to Alberta farmers by contacting your nearest district agriculturist office.

Protect your investment in feed testing by ensuring that the samples you submit are representative. If the samples are not representative the testing results will be misleading and, consequently, of little value.

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Beat The Rush — Feed Test Early (cont'd)

When sampling baled roughages, Mr. Weisenburger advocates the use of a specially designed core sampling tool which is available from your district agriculturist. Take samples from at least 15 different bales or places in the stack. Place the core samples directly into polyethylene sample bags to avoid the loss of leaves.

For sampling loose or cut roughages, or silages, it is best to take the sample by hand because of the difficulty of obtaining a sample with a core sampling tool. Take samples from at least 15 different locations in the stack or silo. Put the samples in a pail and mix thoroughly. Take a sample from the pail and put it into the polyethylene sample bag, avoiding leaf loss. If the roughage is very dry put the sample directly into the polyethylene sample bag.

At this time of the year the most convenient and effective way to sample grains is to collect small amount of grain in a pail from each truck load that is being augered into the storage bin. If you have to sample from a storage bin, try to use a bin probe to collect your sample. You should probe at least 15 different locations in the bin and put the samples in a pail. Then mix the grain in the pail thoroughly and transfer a sample to a polyethylene sample bag.

Mr. Weisenburger says if you are having your feeds analysed at the Agricultural Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory in Edmonton you can pick up sample kits, and feed and ration information forms from your district agriculturist. If you are having your feeds analysed at a private lab, please contact the lab of your choice directly.

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# INFLUENCE OF WATER AND HAY ON WINTERING YOUNG HORSES

Providing horses with water during the winter can have a significant effect on body condition when spring arrives, says Bob Coleman of Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch.

This was the outcome of a study conducted by the horse industry branch of Alberta Agriculture and the staff of the equine studies program of Lakeland College. During the winter of 1981-82 the effects on young horses of having to eat snow and to forage for grass were compared to the effect of getting water from a heated waterer and receiving supplemental hay feeding.

The trial included three treatment groups. One group received hay free choice, but had to eat snow as a water source (group 1), the second group was fed hay free choice, and had water free choice from a heated watering bowl (group 2). The third group had unlimited access to winter pasture and snow, but did not receive any supplemental feed or water (group 3).

Each group was comprised of five long yearling colts with an average age of 18 months. Prior to January 1 all 15 colts were maintained as a single group and were weighed every 28 days beginning in September to establish weight gain patterns on each horse. The 100-day trial began January 1. Data collected included body weights every 28 days, kg of hay offered groups 1 and 2 (9.5 kg/head/day), hair coat condition, body condition and general attitude. Horses were observed every two days.

According to Mr. Coleman, the horses in group 3, receiving no supplemental feed or water, showed a significant weight loss in comparison to the other two groups. The horses

- (cont'd) -

Influence Of Water And Hay On Wintering Young Horses (cont'd)

in groups 1 and 2 were able to maintain their body weight and no significant differences between the groups were noted. However, there was a large degree of variability between horses in all treatment groups.

Visual examination revealed certain differences which were broken down into the following categories.

Attitude – Attitude was based on how the horses acted while on pasture, and when handled on weigh day. The horses in group 2 always gave the impression of feeling good. When being weighed the horses were more rambunctious and they spent a good part of their time in the pasture running and playing. Group 1, while not as playful in the pasture as group 2, did act as though they were feeling good on the trip to and from the weigh shed. Group 3 horses appeared to be a very quiet group, spending considerable amounts of time eating and having to be persuaded and coaxed from the pasture to the weigh shed and back to the pasture.

Hair coat – Hair coat condition differences were very noticeable. The horses which did not receive water had very coarse and rough hair coats while the horses getting water had a dense normal winter hair coat. In addition, the horses which received water tended to shed out earlier in the year and, in general, were slick and shiny sooner than the horses which did not receive any water.

Body condition – All the horses were condition scored using the TEXAS A+M System for scoring body condition. This was done at the start of the trial in September, again in January, and then on the last two weigh days. All horses on the pasture-snow treatment (group 3) showed a reduction in body condition while they were on pasture. The groups receiving hay (groups 1 and 2) did not show a change in body condition. This lack of change follows closely with the fact that these two groups receiving hay also maintained their weight.

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Influence Of Water And Hay On Wintering Young Horses (cont'd)

The horses maintained on pasture with no supplemental feed or water were unable to maintain body condition as well as the horses receiving hay and/or water. This inability to maintain body condition was observed despite the fact that there were ample amounts of forage available.

In summary, states Mr. Coleman, young horses lose weight and condition when only allowed pasture and snow during the winter. When hay and snow are provided, horses maintain their weight but are slower to recover condition when spring arrives. By providing free choice water and hay during the winter, the condition of young horses in the spring is greatly enhanced.

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## ALBERTA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE OPEN HOUSE

The Alberta Environmental Centre, Vegreville will be holding an open house on Wednesday, September 22 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Featured at the open house will be explanations of work being done in plant sciences, animal sciences, chemistry and environmental technology plus a variety of displays.

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## 4-H EXPRESS-IONS AND HORSE SENSE '82

Three-hundred 4-H members and leaders from across the province attended "4-H Express-ions" and "Horse Sense '82" sponsored by Alberta Agriculture and United Farmers of Alberta Cooperative Ltd at Olds College, August 9 to 11.

4-H Express-ions has a variety of features which distinguish it from other provincial 4-H programs. It is the only provincial program which includes junior members (10 to 13 years), senior members (14 to 21 years), and 4-H leaders. This format provides a perfect setting where leaders and members can share new ideas and learn from each other. All of the sessions focus on new ideas for each participant to take back to their clubs. Low-keyed competitions are also a part of this program.

Sessions offered cover such topics as small engines, photography, modelling and flower arranging and are led by knowledgeable resource people many of whom are staff at Olds College. District home economists participate as resource people for sessions and assist as judges in the numerous competitions offered.

In its fourth year of operation, Horse Sense '82 attracted representatives from 30 4-H light horse clubs across the province and provided members with an opportunity to broaden their knowledge of the judging of demonstrations and the judging of project skills. Events featured at this year's Horse Sense '82 program included a horse bowl competition, seminars and judging contests in western equitation, showmanship and conformation.

Both programs were very successful this year in providing participants with new ideas for their clubs and helping them make new friends.

In order to get a better idea about what "4-H Express-ions" and "Horse Sense '82" are all about, film footage taken at the program will be shown on the television program 4-H Club Time, this fall. Check your TV schedule for time and date.

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## TWO SOIL SALINITY SPECIALISTS APPOINTED

Controlling soil salinity on dryland in south-central Alberta will be the work facing two soils specialists recently appointed by Alberta Agriculture says Adolph Goettel, head of the soils branch.

John Timmermans, working out of the Airdrie regional office, has been appointed as a salinity specialist and will be primarily responsible for extension of known methods of controlling salinity under dryland agriculture. Extension includes the dissemination of information through meetings and the media and the demonstration of control methods such as cropping, use of tolerant crops and excess water removal. Field investigations prior to the adoption of any control measure will also be one of Mr. Timmermans' duties. His services can be obtained by contacting your district agriculturist.

Mr. Timmermans grew up on a farm near Vauxhall and has a B.Sc. in agriculture and M.Sc. in soil science from the University of Alberta. He was formerly an agronomist with Western Co-operative Fertilizers Ltd.

Don Wentz, formerly district agriculturist at Lethbridge, has been appointed as a crops and soils specialist. His main duty will be to provide on-farm specialist services to individual farmers, groups and associations.

One such association is the Warner Dryland Salinity Control Association. This group was formed to promote the adoption of cropping practices to reduce salinity. Field investigations include drilling and sampling. Part of the program is to locate areas causing salt accumulation and encourage control measures. Farmer co-operation is of prime importance as recharge areas may not always be located on land which has an immediate salinity problem.

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Two Soil Salinity Specialists Appointed (cont'd)

Mr. Wentz will be responsible for liaison with farmers and farmer groups throughout Alberta and with those in Montana where a similar problem exists.

Mr. Wentz has considerable experience in farming, has a B.Sc. in agriculture from Montana State University and is working on an M.Ag. degree at the University of Alberta. He has held a number of positions with Alberta Agriculture since 1971 including farm management instructor, irrigation specialist and district agriculturist.

Both specialists will be working with Mr. Hank Vander Pluym whose role is to develop controls in co-operation with Agriculture Canada, PFRA and Alberta Environment.

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# AGRI-NEWS

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# AGRICULTURE ON THE MOVE
# A POLICY STATEMENT ON GRAIN TRANSPORTATION

Dallas Schmidt, Minister of Agriculture, and Hugh Planche, Minister of Economic Development, have released a statement outlining Alberta's objectives, principles and recommendations with respect to western grain transportation.

The policy statement was a result of input from various individuals and groups with an interest in grain transportation. Of particular significance were contributions from Alberta farm organizations which held an extensive series of meetings with their memberships in order to make constructive recommendations to Dr. Gilson and the Alberta government.

Other contributions to Alberta's policy came from the Red Deer Agriculture Conference held earlier this summer and constituent representations to their MLA's. The policy statement was prepared by a caucus committee chaired by LeRoy Fjordbotten, MLA for Macleod.

The ministers stated that the Alberta government views the Gilson report as a good starting point in addressing the issue of the Crowsnest freight rate structure and emphasized that involvement of the participants, and others, in further consultation is still required. But, the ministers stressed, Dr. Gilson's report offers the beginning of a solution which will enable the livestock and agricultural processing industries to realize more of their potential, and at the same time recognizes cost implications to the transportation industry.

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Agriculture On The Move
A Policy Statement On Grain Transportation (cont'd)

Ministers Schmidt and Planche pointed out that the statement also identified a number of outstanding issues on which the federal government must act if Alberta farmers, ranchers and food processors are not to be penalized through a change in the Crow rate.

Anyone wishing a copy of "Alberta's Grain Transportation Policy" should contact their nearest district office of Alberta Agriculture.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# PREPARE YOUR COWS FOR WINTER

Management of your cow herd during late summer and early fall sets the stage for the type of feeding program that will be needed during the winter feeding period.

Ron Weisenburger of Alberta Agriculture's animal industry division feels that under many management systems in Alberta, a producer will concentrate on the growth of calves and ignore the condition of the cow at this time of the year. If pasture quantity or quality is less than adequate during late summer and early fall the growth rate of the calf will decrease and cows will lose both body weight and condition.

The body condition of cows entering the winter season can have a significant effect on the amount and quality of feed they will need. Cows in thin condition in the fall must gain weight throughout the winter. As a result, they must be fed either good quality forage or an average quality forage with some grain. On the other hand, cows that are in good condition in early winter need only enough feed to maintain their weight until calving. In this case poor quality hay or good straw can be the major component of the feeding program. If cows are in good condition in early winter, you can feed a good quality straw for as much as 75 per cent of the cows' diet with the exception of the six-week period before calving when more energy intake will be required.

Needless to say, states Mr. Weisenburger, it is more expensive to feed a thin cow to gain weight and condition during the winter than it is to maintain a cow already in good condition.

In order to have cows maintain or gain condition during the late summer and early fall, either the cows must have access to good quality pasture or the demands on the cow

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Prepare Your Cows For Winter (cont'd)

for milk production must be decreased or removed completely. If your cows are already relatively thin at this time of the year, Mr. Weisenburger advises you to consider the following options.

1. Wean your calves now instead of waiting until November or December. This will allow your cows to gain some condition on most pastures before winter.

2. Begin creep-feeding your calves. This will reduce the demand on the cow to produce milk and will help her regain condition for the winter.

3. If the pasture quantity is limited, consider feeding some grain or hay to your cows while they are still on pasture.

4. Since the protein content of many pastures, especially native range, is low in the fall, your cattle may respond to supplemental protein, such as liquid protein supplement. However, liquid supplements are an expensive form of energy and if enough grass is not available the cattle will consume costly amounts.

5. Consider grazing stubble fields, regrowth on hay, pasture and forage seed production fields, slough, bush and roadside areas. This can extend your grazing season even if some supplemental feed may be needed.

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## WHAT IS A BALE?

Hay is one of the most frequently bought and sold livestock feeds, with transactions usually made on the basis of a bale of hay. Yet, the bale is a vaguely defined amount in both quantity and quality.

Myron Bjorge of Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch points out these discrepancies in quantity and quality. Large round hay bales may range in weight from 365 to 1,100 kg (from less than 800 lb to more than 2,400 lb). Small square bales can easily vary from 18 to 32 kg (approximately 40 to 70 lb or more). Quality is based mainly on the visible condition of the hay (i.e. the amount of weathering that occurred during harvest). Using hay condition as the major criteria for estimating quality, however, can sometimes be very misleading.

The following suggestions from Mr. Bjorge can be used for a more accurate measure of hay quality and quantity.

1. Purchase hay only on the basis of actual bale weight not on estimated weight by bale size.
2. Determine the percentage of legume in the hay. Average analysis of hay by the Soil & Feed Testing Laboratory from 1976 to 1980 showed that legume hay has approximately seven per cent more crude protein than grass hay. If the hay is to be used as a source of protein, this difference can amount to $44 per tonne ($40 per ton), based on the present value of beef cattle protein supplements.

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What Is A Bale? (cont'd)

Legume hay, especially alfalfa, is more digestible than grass hay and therefore, somewhat higher in value even when fed as a major energy source. The difference between average legume hay and grass hay amounts to about $7.70 per tonne ($7.00 per ton), when you consider energy value and compare the hays to barley grain and straw.

3. Determine the stage of maturity at harvest time by examining the hay. The quality of hay decreases rapidly as maturity advances. Legumes should not be more mature than early bloom, and grasses should be in a stage before flowering to have a high feed value. Leafiness of hay should also be assessed since leaves contain most of the nutrients.
4. Assess the condition of the hay. The amount of weathering is important since it relates to retention of nutrients as well as palatability to livestock. The loss of leaf material will also be directly affected by weathering.

Whenever possible, obtain a feed analysis to reduce the guesswork involved in establishing hay values and to determine what quantities of various nutrient sources to feed. This is especially important this year since quality may be much lower than normal as a result of a late harvest and adverse weather conditions.

What is a bale? Mr. Bjorge concludes that a bale is nothing more than a bunch of hay tied or wrapped together for storage or transit. Don't purchase and pay for hay on the basis of a bale!

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## TAKING STOCK 1982 – OUTLOOK CONFERENCE FOR THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

Register early for Alberta Agriculture's cattle and hog outlook conference, Taking Stock 1982, to be held October 13 and 14, 1982 at the Capri Centre, Red Deer.

Now is the time for gathering information to help you manage in today's economic climate. Taking Stock will provide you with an up-to-date market outlook for cattle and hogs, and an analysis of economic conditions and how they affect Alberta livestock producers. Don't miss this opportunity to hear and question leading market analysts in the livestock industry.

Taking Stock will feature speakers from both Canada and the United States presenting the Canadian and American cattle and hog outlooks, as well as feedgrain and protein supplements outlook. In addition, exchange and interest rates, general economic outlook, and long term prospects for the livestock industry will be examined.

Three registration plans are offered: $55 for the conference, proceedings and meals; $35 for the conference and proceedings; $15 for proceedings only. Conference registration is limited to 400 and for those wanting the $55 plan, the deadline for registration is September 29.

Taking Stock 1982 begins Wednesday, October 13 at 11:00 a.m. with registration and a complimentary luncheon. The conference winds up with a luncheon and speaker on Thursday afternoon.

The Taking Stock program and registration form is available from your district office or the Market Analysis Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta (Phone: 427-5383).

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## BEEF PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AT FAIRVIEW COLLEGE

An intensive Beef Production Management program will be offered by Fairview College commencing October 25, 1982 and running until February 24, 1983. The 16-week certificate program has been designed to meet the needs of cattle producers, breeders and others interested in the management of beef cattle operations.

In developing the program, Fairview College has drawn upon the resources and assistance of many well-known western Canadian cattlemen who advised the college on matters of curriculum design and content.

Beef Production Management will cover six major areas.

"Marketing and Production Economics" will include the present status of the industry, marketing systems, economics of production and promotion of the industry.

"Beef Cattle Nutrition" will cover basic nutrition feedstuffs, requirements, ration formulation and related nutritional problems.

"Breeding and Selection" includes the physiology of reproduction, basic genetics, inheritance, selection, breeding systems, performance testing and an A.I. program.

"Beef Cattle Management" will include calving management, problems, facilities, sanitation and management practices such as tagging, branding, castration and dehorning. Brood cow management will cover all aspects of breeding and feeding for maximum returns. Bull management will include selection and reproductive performance information.

"Forages and Pasture Management" will deal with forage handling systems, varieties and management procedures.

"Beef Cattle Facilities" will deal with handling and housing with regard to cattle psychology.

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Beef Production Management Program At Fairview College (cont'd)

"Introduction to Feedlot Management", the final selection, will provide a basic awareness of feedlot operations and include such subjects as sanitation, diseases and financial management.

Fairview College has been fortunate to acquire the services of John Milne, a Peace country cattle producer, as the instructor for Beef Cattle Management. Mr. Milne has run his own cattle operation in Fairview for eight years. Prior to this he worked as a district agriculturist for five years and as a regional livestock supervisor for the Peace River district for nine years. Mr. Milne is a graduate of both Lakeland College and the University of Alberta and has served as president of the Peace River Stock Grower's Association.

"I plan to make Beef Production Management a very practical, hands-on course," says Mr. Milne. "In addition to using the college's classroom, lab and farm facilities, I will be calling on other cattlemen in the region to give students experience with their operations."

Beef Cattle Management runs from October 25, 1982 through February 24, 1983. Tuition is $180 for the full course with an additional fee of $36.50 to cover registration, student association fees and other miscellaneous expenses.

Accommodation for students is available in the college's 500-bed residence village. Dormitory and apartment accommodations are available at $90 per month for single students and $320 per month for families.

As the program is intended primarily for those interested in management careers in the cattle business, preference will be given to applicants with a minimum of Alberta Grade II or equivalent and at least two years experience in cattle production.

For further information contact Fairview College, Box 3000, Fairview, Alberta, T0H 1L0.

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September 13, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## TRANSPLANTING ALBERTA TREES AND SHRUBS

Transplanting involves three distinct operations — the initial digging, the moving and the replanting of the tree or shrub at the new site.

A recent publication put out by Alberta Agriculture entitled "Transplanting Alberta Trees and Shrubs" outlines the most desirable methods and procedures for transplanting.

Plant selection is an important aspect of successful transplanting. Some trees will move easily and adapt readily to a new environment, while others will move and survive only under optimum conditions. The time of year a tree or shrub is moved will affect its survival as will its preparation for planting.

Proper digging and protection of roots are illustrated in numerous drawings and photographs in the publication. The final section covers planting the tree or shrub in its new environment to ensure its survival.

Copies of "Transplanting Alberta Trees and Shrubs" are available from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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September 13, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL MARKETING APPOINTED

Mr. B.D. Mehr, assistant deputy minister of marketing, Alberta Agriculture, has announced the appointment of Cliff F. Wulff as executive director of Alberta Agriculture's international marketing group, effective immediately.

Mr. Wulff assumes the executive director position after being the department's international trade director for the European market for the past two years. As executive director, Mr. Wulff's new duties will include responsibility for the department's market development and assistance programs. These programs emphasize the optimizing of producer returns from the export marketing of Alberta's commodities, processed products and technical services. The sector also encourages the utilization of international opportunities for the further development of the province's food processing industry.

Mr. Wulff holds a B.Sc. in agriculture and a M.B.A. degree, both from the University of Alberta. He brings considerable experience to the position including an extensive management, administrative and marketing background as general manager of the Prince Edward Island Land Development Corporation; as regional development officer with the federal department of regional economic expansion and as chief of the livestock, meat and dairy products division of the federal department of industry, trade and commerce.

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# AGRI-NEWS

OCT 1 1982

September 20, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
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September 20, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# ALBERTA FEED BARLEY FUTURES MARKET

Alberta Agriculture Minister Dallas Schmidt has announced that the province is entering into an agreement with the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange to start an Alberta Feed Barley Futures Market. This, said Mr. Schmidt, is another initiative of the Government of Alberta in support of the grain industry — one that is of major benefit to both the feed grain producer and user. The Winnipeg Commodity Exchange, in co-operation with the Alberta Securities Exchange, has agreed to commence trading in feed barley futures contracts. Delivery will be in-store at Calgary with alternate delivery points at Lethbridge and Edmonton. The elevators of Alberta Terminals Limited will be utilized.

The Alberta Government will provide start up assistance of $250,000 and the exchange is committed to continue the market for at least three years. The operation will commence late in 1982 or early in 1983.

Mr. Schmidt said that the agreement with the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange will satisfy the needs of Alberta producers and Alberta consumers of feed barley. Both groups will have increased confidence and ability to plan future operations oy having a more stable market price and the ability to hedge. The successful use of futures contracts will depend on the Canadian Wheat Board providing adequate quotas or exempting futures contracts from quotas.

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Alberta Feed Barley Futures Market (cont'd)

To encourage involvement by Alberta businesses, the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange has agreed to offer members of the Alberta Stock Exchange admission to the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange on favored terms. It is also prepared to arrange direct quotations, transmissions and communications between the two trading facilities. The Winnipeg Commodity Exchange will also co-operate with the Alberta Stock Exchange in other mutually supportive projects in the future.

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September 20, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WARBLE INFESTATIONS DROP DRAMATICALLY IN ALBERTA

Alberta Agriculture's warble monitoring system has recorded a dramatic drop in warble infested cattle carcasses.

Dr. Ali Khan, livestock pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch, reports that the examination of slaughter cattle in packing plants in Alberta by federal meat and hygiene inspectors during the past spring showed that only 6 per cent of the carcasses were infested compared with 14 per cent in 1980 and 44 per cent in 1968. Dr. Khan also reports that this reduction in warble infestations in Alberta cattle has been confirmed by data obtained from auction market inspections.

He attributes the dramatic drop in warble infested cattle carcasses during the past two years to the continual treatment of cattle in both the fall and the spring and to the persistant efforts of agricultural service board fieldmen. He says they have carried out their area warble control and enforcement programs with great diligence.

The Calgary director of field services for the Canadian Meat Council, Ron Tolton, says grubby cattle carcasses have cost Alberta packers a great deal of money in the past, and that the greatly reduced number of grubby carcasses recorded in 1982, compared with other years, will save the beef industry thousands of dollars. He also says that Alberta Agriculture staff and agricultural service board fieldmen should be congratulated on the warble control results they have achieved as should the federal meat hygience inspectors whose in-plant inspections made last spring's survey possible.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# HIGH QUALITY BEEF SHIPPED TO U.K.

The first container of Alberta beef has been shipped by Canada Safeway's Export Development Department in Edmonton to the United Kingdom under the European Economic Community's (EEC) 10,000 tonne quota of high quality beef.

According to Cliff Wulff of Alberta Agriculture's international marketing group, prospects for the shipment of additional containers of Alberta beef to the U.K. in the near future look very promising. He reports that a number of U.K. companies were encouraged to apply for licenses to import high quality Alberta beef during a reception that was held at Alberta House in London last summer, and that the present shipment is just the beginning of U.K. beef imports from Alberta.

High quality beef in terms of EEC markets refers to Canadian A2, A3 and A4 steers and heifers. The cuts that have been shipped to the U.K. are similar to those that are supplied to Alberta restaurants that serve better quality beef, and they come mainly from the hindquarters of the steer or heifer.

Alberta Agriculture's international marketing group is presently investigating three other EEC markets. They are the Netherlands, West Germany and Switzerland. Since beef promotional activities in these countries are still very much in the preliminary stages, Mr. Wulff does not expect a substantial quantity of high quality Alberta beef to be exported to them until at least the first part of 1983. However, he says he is very encouraged by the reception Alberta's high quality beef cuts have received to date, and that it is only a matter of time before these countries start importing our beef. He also points out that at the present time Alberta Agriculture's international marketing group's main promotional efforts are being directed towards the United Kingdom and West Germany because of their large volume potential.

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High Quality Beef Shipped To U.K. (cont'd)

The ECC market development efforts have been made by Alberta Agriculture's international marketing group in conjunction with the Alberta Cattlemen's Association, Canada Safeway's Export Development Department and Alberta's packing plants. Mr. Wulff says the time and effort put forward by these different groups is now bearing fruit and that it is this kind of joint effort that is required to develop export markets. He also emphasized that such efforts must be maintained if sales of high quality beef to EEC markets are to continue.

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September 20, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# ARE HAY PRICES TOO HIGH?

With the winter feeding season fast approaching, it is time to make plans and arrangements to obtain extra supplies of feed. For most of us the first thought, especially with beef cow herds, is to purchase the extra hay needed to get our cattle through the winter.

Ron Weisenburger of Alberta Agriculture's animal industry division feels that too often little thought is given to alternative feeding programs, or to what hay of various types is worth in the feeding program. For example, purchasing a good quality alfalfa hay to use as the major part of the ration of a wintering beef cow is a waste of money. A wintering beef cow requires a ration containing a moderate amount of energy and a relatively low amount of protein in relation to the needs of other types of cattle. Feeding an alfalfa ration to a wintering beef cow results in considerable overfeeding of protein.

Alfalfa is generally priced according to its value in dairy rations. Compared to beef cows, lactating dairy cows require considerably higher concentrations of both protein and energy in their rations. The supplemental protein needed in a dairy ration must be supplied by commercial supplements.

The value of alfalfa is magnified in dairy rations because of its high protein content relative to other forages and because protein is often a limiting nutrient in many dairy cow rations. At the present time the price of barley is about $100 per tonne ($2.18 per bushel) and 32 per cent dairy supplement costs about $280 per tonne ($255 per ton). Using these prices as a base in a least cost ration formulation program, the value of a 16 per cent protein alfalfa hay in lactating dairy cow rations is about $119 per tonne ($108 per ton). The value of a 12 per cent protein alfalfa-grass mix is $76 per tonne ($69 per ton) while the value

- (cont'd) -

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Are Hay Prices Too High? (cont'd)

of an 8.5 per cent protein grass hay is only $42 per tonne ($38 per ton). Therefore, in relation to normal prices for hay, alfalfa is usually the best buy for dairy operators even though it costs more per tonne (ton). The extra price paid for the alfalfa hay is offset by the need for less protein supplement in the ration.

However, the same is not true in a wintering beef cow ration, emphasizes Mr. Weisenburger. Since straw is usually inexpensive and can form the base of a wintering cow ration, the value of hay should then relate to the cost of a straw-based ration.

Using prices of $33 per tonne ($30 per ton) for straw, $100 per tonne ($2.18 per bushel) for barley and $210 per tonne ($191 per ton) for 32 per cent beef supplement, the following rations were formulated to illustrate the value of different types of hay in feeding beef cows. The amount of feed in the following rations meets the energy and protein needs of a 500 kg (1100 lb) dry wintering cow in mid-pregnancy. These rations do not make allowance for waste or for extra feed needed during very cold weather.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1) Good barley straw | 6.8 kg | (15 lb) |
| Barley grain | 1.6 kg | ( 3.5 lb) |
| 32% beef supplement | 0.6 kg | ( 1.3 lb) |
| 2) Average grass hay (8.5% protein) | 9.3 kg | (20.5 lb) |
| 3) Average alfalfa-grass hay (12% protein) | 8.6 kg | (19 lb) |
| 4) Average alfalfa hay (16% protein) | 8.2 kg | (18 lb) |

It does not make sense, says Mr. Weisenburger, to purchase hay and feed it as outlined in rations 2, 3 and 4 unless the cost of feed per cow per day is comparable to that of ration 1. Using the prices given for straw, grain and supplement ration 1 costs 51¢ per cow per day. Therefore, when used as the main feed as in the above rations, grass hay is worth

- (cont'd) -

Are Hay Prices Too High? (cont'd)

$54.50 per tonne ($49.50 per ton), alfalfa-grass hay is worth $59 per tonne ($53.50per ton), and alfalfa hay is worth only $62 per tonne ($56.50 per ton). Consequently, if hay is to be used as the main ration component, grass hay would usuallly be the best buy for wintering cows.

If, however, an alfalfa hay or an alfalfa-grass hay is used to supplement a poor hay or straw-based ration, the legume portion becomes more valuable because it supplies needed additional protein to the ration. This makes these hay products more valuable because they are replacing protein supplement. The following rations will meet the energy and protein requirements of wintering beef cows in the same manner as ration 1.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5) Good barley straw | 6.8 kg | (15 lb) |
| Average (16% protein) alfalfa hay | 2.7 kg | ( 6 lb) |
| 6) Good barley straw | 6.8 kg | (15 lb) |
| Average (12% protein) alfalfa-grass hay | 3.1 kg | ( 6.9 lb) |

Using the same prices as before, if the ration is still to cost 51¢ per cow per day the alfalfa hay is now worth $104 per tonne ($94.50 per ton) and the alfalfa-grass hay is worth $90 per tonne ($82 per ton). Using these types of rations for wintering beef cows, the alfalfa-grass would be the best buy.

Mr. Weisenburger concludes that depending on your feeding program, your best buy in hay could be a grass hay, an alfalfa-grass mix or an alfalfa. Beef operators should be especially cautious of overfeeding high-quality, high-priced hay if it is not needed.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## DAIRY AND BEEF CATTLE AI COURSES

Olds College will be holding seven 10-day artificial insemination (AI) courses for dairy and beef cattle and five one-day refresher courses between the middle of November 1982 and the middle of April 1983.

The 10-day courses will provide participants with considerable experience in the use of artificial insemination and in the handling of semen with both straws and vials. Basic nutritional requirements, sire selection, breeding programs, diseases and heat synchronization will also be covered. All except one of the 10-day courses will conclude with a special one-day seminar that will feature an outstanding guest speaker who will discuss a topic of specific interest to dairy or beef producers. Anybody connected with the cattle industry may register separately for these one-day events.

The one-day refresher courses are designed for people who have had previous training and/or experience with artificial insemination. The courses will include a careful check-out of the technique and semen handling procedure being used by the participants.

The 10-day courses, except for the one that does not include a seminar, will cost $313. However, since Alberta Agriculture's animal industry division will provide a $50 subsidy for these courses, the applicant will pay only $263. The course that does not include a seminar will cost the applicant $233.

The fee for the one-day refresher courses is $38 per person.

Room and board at the college if desired and if available will cost $180.

Since enrolment is limited, anyone planning on taking an AI course or a refresher course at Olds would be wise to get his application in as early as possible. More information on the courses, their dates and application forms can be obtained at the Department of Continuing Education, Olds College, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO.

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September 20, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ARRANGE WINTER FEED SOURCES EARLY

Northern Alberta beef and dairy farmers who had difficulty in putting up their forage crops this year and who will require additional winter feed would be wise to start making arrangements for securing it now.

Judd Bunnage of Alberta Agriculture says the difficult hay situation that prevails in the Peace River region and in a number of other northern Alberta areas resulted from the cold, dry spring that delayed the first hay crop and the subsequent wet weather that caused much of the hay to be put up in a damaged condition.

He says farmers who have second or third cuts of alfalfa might want to consider harvesting such crops because there is a good chance of a market developing for high quality alfalfa hay as the winter feeding season progresses.

Mr. Bunnage advises farmers to take into consideration as many factors as possible when deciding whether or not to buy or sell hay and when establishing a price. He says the amount of frost damage sustained by cereal crops in northeastern Alberta will influence the availability of feed for beef cattle in that area, and that straw supplemented with grain and protein can maintain wintering beef cattle reasonably well.

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Alberta
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Communications Division

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September 20, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# HOME CANNING VEGETABLES

As more and more people are looking for ways to economize, the home canning of vegetables seems to be making a comeback.

Suzanne Tenold, Alberta Agriculture's regional food and nutrition specialist, located at Airdrie, recommends the following canning procedure.

. Use only jars and lids that have been made especially for home canning. Never use ordinary jars such as mayonnaise jars because they cannot withstand the high temperatures used for canning and because it is difficult to get a good seal with them.

. Buy new lids. Once the sealant on a lid has been broken after having been sealed, it will not seal properly again.

. Do not use unused lids from a previous year because the sealant tends to dry out leaving hairline cracks that can interfere with a good seal.

. Do not overpack foods. Trying to get too much food into a jar may result in underprocessing and spoilage.

. Follow exactly the time and temperature specifications listed in the canning instructions and adjust processing time according to the altitude.

. Check the seal after processed vegetables have cooled.

. Do not use canned foods that show signs of spoilage, and check for bulging lids, leaks, off-odors, off-colors and mold.

. Always boil home-canned, low acid vegetables for 15 minutes before serving or tasting them.

(cont'd)

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Home Canning Vegetables (cont'd)

. Do not take shortcuts or experiment with home canning. Use only tested and approved methods and if you do not know the time required to process a particular vegetable, do not substitute the time given for a similar vegetable.

. Contact your local district home economist if you require more information or assistance with your home canning.

Ms. Tenold says of all the micro-organisms that are responsible for spoiling home canned vegetables, the spore-forming bacteria *Clostridium botulinum* looms above the rest. It grows best in the absence of air, under moist conditions and in a low acid environment. Since vegetables are usually low in acid, those that have been home canned provide an ideal environment for *Clostridium botulinum* to grow.

During unfavorable conditions like a high temperature, an increase in acidity or the exposure to air, this bacteria can protect itself by forming spores which can remain dormant until conditions become more favorable.

Although the bacteria and its toxin can be destroyed at a temperature of 100° C, its spores are resistant to a temperature of 116° C. And it is for this reason that all vegetables and other low acid foods must be processed under pressure for the specified length of time. It is only in this way that the temperature that is required to ensure all the spores have been destroyed can be reached. However, because of the possibility that a spore might have survived the canning process due to an error in procedure or timing, all home canned vegetables should be boiled for 15 minutes before they are tasted or eaten.

September 20, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FOOD SCIENTIST APPOINTED AT HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

Dr. John Wiebe, director of the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks, is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Terry Smyrl to the position of food scientist.

In his new position, Dr. Smyrl will be responsible for the research and extension program related to Alberta's horticulture food processing industry.

Dr. Smyrl received his Ph.D in Food Science from the University of Alberta in 1977. Since then he has been assistant professor at the School of Food Science at McGill University in Montreal.

He is an active member of the Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology, having recently been involved in the organization of the institutes' national convention. He is also an associate editor of the institute's scientific journal.

Dr. Smyrl is married and has two children.

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September 20, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ACTING REGIONAL LIVESTOCK SUPERVISOR APPOINTED

Dr. Bruce Jeffery, head of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch, has appointed Brian Harris to the position of acting regional livestock supervisor for the Red Deer region. He replaces Dwight Karren who has been seconded to the provincial health of animals division where he will devote a major part of his time to the Alberta Certified Feeders Program.

Mr. Harris graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1968, having majored in animal science. And he has had extensive experience in the animal feed industry, having spent some 10 years with Maple Leaf Mills Ltd and having been general manager of the Master Feeds Mill at Red Deer.

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September 20, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## DAIRY FARM SPECIALIST APPOINTED

Fred Hutchings, director of Alberta Agriculture's dairy division, has announced the appointment of Andre Visscher to the position of dairy farm specialist at Airdrie. He will be working for the dairy farm inspection branch in the Calgary area.

Mr. Visscher received his B.Sc. (agriculture) in the Netherlands and completed post graduate studies at the University of Guelph in 1976.

He worked on a dairy farm in Ontario and also for a large agricultural co-operative in field and managerial positions. And he comes to Alberta Agriculture with specialization in farm production economics and dairy feeding programs.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## DISTRICT HOME ECONOMISTS-IN-TRAINING APPOINTED

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointments of Norma Edwards and Cathy Wahl to the positions of district home economists-in-training.

Norma Edwards

Ms. Edwards will be taking her training in the Camrose district office. She was born in Killam, grew up in Strathmore and graduated from the University of Alberta this spring with a B.Sc. (home economics), having majored in family studies.

Ms. Edwards spent the summer of 1981 in Warner working as a summer assistant with the 4-H and home economics branch. She also worked with 4-H in the fall of 1980. At that time she was helping them with their communication festivals.

Cathy Wahl

Ms. Wahl will be taking her district home economist training in Claresholm. She was born and raised in Calgary and graduated from the University of Alberta this spring with a B.Sc. (home economics), having majored in foods and nutrition.

Most of Ms. Wahl's previous jobs have been "people oriented". In 1978 she worked in Claresholm as a camp counsellor with the Wilderness Ranch Camp. The following summer she went to Scotland where she worked as a waitress and chambermaid in a small hotel. In the summer of 1980 she worked in Fairmont as a campground attendant and as a summer student assistant with the RCMP in the Gleichen area. She spent the summer of 1981 working with Alberta Culture as a tour guide for the Cochrane Ranch.

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# AGRI-NEWS

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September 27, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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Fall Soil Sampling. . . . . .8
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September 27, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# PROPOSED POTATO MARKETING BOARD DEFEATED IN ALBERTA

Alberta's potato producers have voted not to establish an Alberta Potato Marketing Board.

The Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council reports that only 48.5 per cent or 33 of the 68 eligible registered producers voted in favor of the plan to establish a marketing board. In order for a marketing board to be established, it must be supported by a simple majority of the eligible registered producers.

The plan was presented by the Alberta Potato Growers Association and proposed that a marketing board be established with the power to set the minimum prices that producers are paid for fresh table and seed potatoes. It would also assume the current functions of the Alberta Potato Commission.

The defeat of the proposed marketing board means that the Alberta Potato Commission will remain in operation and function as it has done since its establishment in 1966. It conducts promotional, educational and research programs for the benefit of Alberta's potato industry, and is funded by producers through a levy on potato marketings.

Contact: T.E. Sydness, Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council, (403) 427-2164.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CERTIFIED PRECONDITIONED CALVES

"Performance to date indicates preconditioned calves are the way to go for my operation. In future all feeder cattle will be purchased as preconditioned, if possible.

"Excellent program - will buy more preconditioned feeders next year."

"Really impressed with the health and quickness in going on feed."

"Quite pleased with preconditioned calves and would be willing to buy more at a 3-4¢ premium."

The above are some of the comments made by purchasers of certified preconditioned calves during the fall of 1981. Tom Seaborn, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Rocky Mountain House, says the last comment is the one we are all concerned with because preconditioning must provide an incentive to the cow-calf producer.

The aim of a preconditioning program is to minimize the economic loss caused by stress and disease when calves are taken from a cow herd and put into a feedlot. In other words, it is designed to help the calves to withstand the adjustments that they must make when they leave the farm or ranch for the feedlot. Because calves in top condition gain weight and survive better those that are not in top condition, buyers will pay more for them, and it is this added price that makes it worthwhile for the owner to precondition them.

Mandatory requirements of a preconditioning program are as follows.

All cattle that are enrolled in the program must have been owned by the person who is going to precondition them for 60 days, and they must be at least four months old before they are vaccinated. Castrating and dehorning must be done at least three weeks before the animals are sold and blackleg, IBR and $PI_3$ vaccinations must also be done at that time.

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Certified Preconditioned Calves (cont'd)

In addition, the cattle must be treated for warbles at least two weeks before the sale and they must be weaned at least 30 days before the sale. To show that all these procedures have been carried out, a veterinarian attaches a special green eartag to each animal before the sale and all calf lots in the sale are accompanied by a properly completed certificate.

There is also a certified pre-immunization option that cow-calf producers may choose to enroll their calves in. These calves have to meet all the conditions stated above except that they are not weaned until sale time. They are identified by special white tags and each lot is accompanied by a certificate.

Mr. Seaborn reports that preconditioned calves sold at the Rocky Mountain House sale last December received an average price premium of 3.19¢ per pound. Steer calves sold at Ponoka in 1980 received a price premium of 6-8 ¢ per pound while heifers received a premium price of 4-6¢ per pound.

Mr. Seaborn says the cost of preconditioning calves is made up of feed costs ($24), vaccination and grub treatment ($2.50), death losses at 0.5 per cent ($2.50) and miscellaneous losses ($1.50) for a total of $30. He arrived at these costs by averaging those recorded in 1980 and 1981. When $30 was subtracted from preconditioned calf prices last year, the preconditioned calves averaged $24.15 more than the regular calves.

In addition to the major benefits of increased sale weights and premium prices, many cow-calf producers who precondition their calves say that their cows regain their body condition rapidly when their calves are weaned early and that weaning the calves early increases the carrying capacity of fall pastures by 10 to 15 per cent.

September 27, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# ALBERTA IRRIGATION DIVISION WINS AMERICAN BLUE RIBBON AWARDS

Alberta Agriculture's farm irrigation services branch has won the American Society of Agricultural Engineers' Extension Educational Aids Blue Ribbon Award for its weekly television show, Agrivision, for the second year in a row. And it has also won a blue ribbon award, in conjunction with the educational programs branch, for a home study course on irrigation management.

The television show that won this year's blue ribbon award dealt with surface irrigation automation as a means of reducing the labor requirement of surface irrigation. It is co-produced by CFAC Lethbridge.

The irrigation management home study course that won the other blue ribbon was extremely popular with western irrigation farmers. About 500 irrigation farmers in southern Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Montana, U.S.A. participated in it early this spring.

The American Society of Agricultural Engineers presents the Educational Aids Blue Ribbon Awards every year in recognition of outstanding achievements in the development of noteworthy educational aids in the field of agricultural engineering. There were 60 award winners from across North America this year but only four were in the television and motion picture category, and only six were in the extension methods category. And Alberta Agriculture's irrigation division won two of the three awards made to Canadians.

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Alberta Irrigation Division Wins American Blue Ribbon Awards (cont'd)

Len Ring, irrigation systems engineer with Alberta Agriculture, and one of the two co-hosts of Agrivision (the other is Don Wentz, also of Alberta Agriculture) says "The Educational Aids Blue Ribbon Awards that are presented by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers encourage agricultural engineers in both industry and the public service to strive for excellence through the interchange of ideas on successful methods and techniques that contribute to the overall improvement of engineering extension methods".

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## EUROPEAN CORN BORER FOUND IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA AGAIN

The European corn borer has been found in southern Alberta for the second consecutive year.

Dr. Ulf Soehngen, entomologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, reports that surveys carried out by both federal and provincial government agencies indicate that this potentially serious pest is present in the corn-growing areas southwest of Medicine Hat. It has also been found near Seven Persons and Bow Island as well as in gardens in the town of Medicine Hat.

According to Dr. Soehngen, most of the damage caused by the European corn borer to date has been found in the ears of sweet corn grown for the fresh market and for the canning industry. He says in some cases the level of infestation has been as high as 75 per cent of the ears that were checked. Corn borer larvae have also been isolated from the ears and stalks of field corn grown for livestock feed. And Dr. Soehngen points out that this insect can infest many types of vegetables and ornamentals as well as a variety of native plants and that, theoretically, it can appear anywhere in the province.

The adult European corn borer is a yellowish-brown moth that is about 1.5 cm long. When present in a corn crop it lays eggs on the undersides of the leaves in July. The larvae, which feed on the leaves initially, soon make their way into the developing tassels under the husks or into the spaces between the stalks and ears. Later the larvae burrow into the stalks and cobs where, if undisturbed, they overwinter. Dr. Soehngen says infested corn stalks often break in the wind.

Since adult European corn borers are strong fliers, they are readily dispersed over great distances by the wind, and the larvae are transported in such infested material as corn cobs and silage corn.

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European Corn Borer Found In Southern Alberta Again (cont'd)

Dr. Soehngen says the ideal way to control this insect is to cut the stalks etc. for silage as soon as the corn has been harvested or to shred it for fodder. If the stalks are not used for livestock feed, they should be disked and deep plowed (10 to 15 cm) into the ground as soon as the crop has been harvested. Burning infested stalks is also recommended. Where none of the above methods are practical, such as in a home garden, the corn should be bagged, hauled to the nearest dump and burned.

Dr. Soehngen reports that the above control methods were successfully used to eradicate the European corn borer in Alberta 25 years ago. And he also reports that studies carried out at the federal research station in Lethbridge have shown that corn borer infestations can be reduced by 85 to 95 per cent the following year if infested corn stalks are disked and plowed into the ground.

Finally, Dr. Soehngen asks anyone who suspects that he has European corn borers in his field or garden to contact his district agriculturist for confirmation.

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September 27, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FALL SOIL SAMPLING

Are you planning to take soil samples in your fields this fall? Forage fields can be sampled anytime after September 1, while fields that will be seeded next spring should be sampled after October 1.

Phil Dixon, district agriculturist at Rocky Mountain House, believes that soil testing is time and money well spent. He says there are three important steps involved in determining soil fertilizer requirements. One involves identifying nutrients that are in short supply and the level at which they are present in the soil. The second involves estimating the responses of various crops to all the given levels of fertilizer applications that are possible, and the third involves determining the economic returns from the various levels.

It is certainly not profitable to add an excess of fertilizer to the soil, and the addition of too little fertilizer will result in the loss of yield potential and money. However, there comes a point where the cost of adding another 10 pounds of fertilizer will not provide enough of a yield increase to pay for the fertilizer.

Mr. Dixon says fertilizer should be added until its cost equals the benefit cost of producing another unit of crop. A lower application is money lost, while a higher application is money wasted, he says.

The soil testing laboratory in Edmonton can tell you what level of yield increase you can expect from applying various rates of nitrogen and you can decide at what level it is no longer economical for you to apply it. The cost of the service is $10 per field.

- (cont'd) -

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Fall Soil Sampling (cont'd)

In addition to determining the nutrient status of your soil, a soil test will provide such information as the kind and amount of soluble salts in the soil, the existence of acid or alkaline conditions, the texture of the soil, the presence of free lime and an estimate of the organic matter level.

Sampling Procedure

- Size up each field. You may have to sample separately areas which show variations in texture, color, slope, degree of erosion, drainage, crop growth or yield as well as those that have had different past treatment (i.e. fertilizing, manuring or cropping).
- Either avoid or collect separate samples from small areas such as dead or back furrows; old straw, hay or manure pile bottoms; waterways, saline spots; eroded knolls; fence rows; fertilizer bands; areas where piles of brush were burned and other unusual places.
- Select 15 - 20 sampling sites in each field.
- Sample the soil to a depth of six inches at each of the sampling sites, and take separate samples at depths of 0 - 6 inches, 6 - 12 inches and 12 - 24 inches in problem soils.
- Place the samples in clean pails or bags and keep samples taken at different depths separately.
- Mix the samples taken at each depth together and crush any lumps that may be present.
- Dry soil samples by spreading a thin layer of soil on a clean paper in a clean place at room temperature. Do not dry them with artificial heat.

You can get a soil sampling kit and an information sheet, which must be filled out and sent to the soil testing laboratory, from your district agriculturist.

September 27, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WINTER FAIR EXHIBITS URGED

Alberta Agriculture urges Alberta farmers to send cereal, oilseed or forage seed exhibits and/or vegetables and potatoes to the 1982 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, which is scheduled for November 11 - 20.

Once again, Alberta Agriculture will pay the cost of transporting exhibits to Toronto and will provide prize money in all pedigreed seed classes that is equal to that provided by the Royal. Alberta Agriculture also provides an honorarium of $100 for each first prize winner in the pedigreed classes and an honorarium of $200 for each grand championship winner. The honorarium for reserve grand championship winners in the pedigreed classes is $150.

Exhibits may be selected from either the 1981 or 1982 crop and the entry fee per sample is $2, except in the case of 4-H samples and pedigreed seed samples which are free.

Samples sizes are 10 pounds for commercial cereal seed and three pounds for commercial forage, mustard and rapeseed. The sample size for pedigreed cereal seed is three pounds, which must be taken from a 100-bushel or larger lot. The sample size for pedigreed forage seed is two pounds, which must be taken from a 500-pound or larger lot.

Seed potato samples must contain 20 tubers that weigh six to seven ounces each and the variety must be noted. A hay sample must contain not less than a 12-inch section of a bale, and sheaves must be not less than five inches in diameter in the centre and not more than seven inches.

Exhibits must be shipped in containers that are strong enough to ensure that the exhibit will reach its destination in good condition. Light cotton sacks are not strong enough

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Winter Fair Exhibits Urged (cont'd)

alone. They should be placed in a cardboard box before shipping, and the entry tag should be placed inside the container.

Entries close on October 9th, 1982, and all exhibits that are sent directly to the Royal must arrive before November 3. The deadline for the arrival of exhibits sent to Alberta Agriculture is November 2. They should be addressed to: The Field Crops Branch, Bag Service No.47, Lacombe, Alberta, TOC 1SO.

For further information regarding exhibiting at the Royal, contact Bill Witbeck, field crops branch, Lacombe (phone: 782-4641) or your local district agriculturist. Prize lists and entry forms are available from either place.

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September 27, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# FALL WEED CONTROL

Although weed control in Alberta is traditionally thought of as a spring and summer activity, the fall is also a good time for controlling many annual, biennial and perennial weeds, according to Walter Yarish of Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch.

He says that stinkweed, flixweed and scentless chamomile in both stubble and summerfallow fields can be controlled in the fall as can narrow-leafed hawksbeard in newly seeded alfalfa fields. Other broad-leaved weeds and grasses in established alfalfa plantings can also be controlled in the fall.

Fall control of such perennial weeds as Canada thistle, perennial sow thistle and quackgrass in cultivated land, especially in areas that are difficult to get at during the growing season, is recommended by Mr. Yarish.

He recommends preparing fields for next spring's planting by incorporating herbicides or herbicide-fertilizer combinations into the soil now to control grassy and/or broadleaved weeds.

He points out that the procedures used for fall weed control vary from one district to another because cropping patterns and climatic and soil conditions vary from district to district.

Information on fall weed control techniques recommended for specific regions of Alberta can be obtained from your district agriculturist.

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September 27, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## RUMINANT NUTRITIONIST APPOINTED

Dr. H.B. Jeffery, head of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch, has announced the appointment of Dale Engstrom to the position of ruminant nutritionist with the nutrition section of the animal industry division.

In his new position, Mr. Engstrom will be responsible for the beef cattle and sheep programs and for the activities of the nutrition section. He will also act as a resource person in animal nutrition for producers and people in agribusiness, and will be involved in extension and applied research in beef cattle and sheep feeding and management.

A native Albertan, Mr. Engstrom received his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta in 1972, having majored in animal science. From 1972 until 1978 he served as district agriculturist with the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture in Dawson Creek. He was then appointed regional livestock specialist and moved to Prince George where he spent a year working on extension and demonstration projects with producers and staff in the Caribou, central and Peace River regions of B.C.

After seven years of public service, Mr. Engstrom joined the staff of Bavaria South Peace Farms Ltd. at Dawson Creek in 1979. Here he worked as assistant and livestock manager until his recent appointment to Alberta Agriculture.

Mr. Engstrom is a member of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists and of the Canadian Society of Animal Science. He is married and has three sons.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS APPOINTED

Don Young, Alberta Agriculture's assistant director of extension, is pleased to announce the following district agriculturist appointments.

### Steve Archibald

Steve Archibald has been appointed district agriculturist at Olds. He is a native of Truro, Nova Scotia, and received his bachelor of science degree from Macdonald College, Quebec, having majored in animal science. After graduation, he worked for five and a half years as a feed sales representative for Canada Packers. He then ran a small hog farm of his own and managed a 2,400 feeder hog operation.

Before going to Olds, Mr. Archibald was trained for a year at the Claresholm office with senior district agriculturist Allen Toly.

### Phil Dixon

Phil Dixon has been appointed district agriculturist at Rocky Mountain House. He started his bachelor's degree, specializing in horticulture, at the University of Alberta and completed it at Guelph. Upon leaving university, he went to Medicine Hat where he was trained with senior district agriculturist John Van Keulen.

### Rick Bjorge

Rick Bjorge has been appointed district agriculturist at Westlock. He is a native of the Camrose area and received his bachelor of science in agriculture with a major in plant science from the University of Alberta in 1975.

Mr. Bjorge was trained in the High Prairie office and was district agriculturist at Fort Vermilion until 1978 when he became regional 4-H specialist at Fairview and Barrhead. He remained in that position until his present appointment.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS-IN-TRAINING ANNOUNCED

Don Young, Alberta Agriculture's assistant director of extension, has announced the appointments of four district agriculturists-in-training.

Adele Reichert

Ms. Reichert was born and raised on a small mixed farm near Morden, Manitoba. She received her bachelor of science in agriculture from the University of Manitoba in 1981, having specialized in plant science. While at university, she was an active member of the Faculty of Agriculture Student Organization.

Ms. Reichert brings a great deal of experience to her job. She has worked during the summer with Agriculture Canada on weed control research and with the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool as well as having spent three summers with the Manitoba and Alberta departments of agriculture as a summer assistant district agriculturist. This past summer she was summer assistant district agriculturist at Drayton Valley.

Ms. Reichert will be training with John Vanderleest at Thorhild.

Margaret Toronchuk

Ms. Toronchuk was born and raised on a grain farm in the Vegreville area. She received her bachelor of science in agriculture from the University of Alberta in 1982, having specialized in animal science. She was active in the University's Ukrainian Club and the Mixed Chorus.

Ms. Toronchuk has worked at the University of Alberta's ranch at Kinsella as well as on a beef and sheep station in Australia under the International Agricultural Exchange Program. She spent some of this past summer travelling in Europe.

Ms. Toronchuk will be training with Russ Horvey at Hanna.

- (cont'd) -

District Agriculturists-In-Training Announced (cont'd)

Josie Van Lent

Ms. Van Lent was raised on a mixed farm near Red Deer. She received her bachelor of science in agriculture in a general pattern from the University of Alberta in 1982. While at university, she was active in the Agriculture Club and the Sisters of Farm House.

She has worked in the Michener Center for a number of summers. She spent the summer of 1981 as a summer assistant district agriculturist in Vulcan, and she spent the past summer working on a research project in the University of Alberta's Soil Science Department.

Ms. Van Lent will be training with Randy Bjorklund at Lloydminster.

Scott Meers

Mr. Meers was born and raised on a mixed farm near Acadia Valley. He received his bachelor of science in agriculture degree from the University of Alberta in 1982, having specialized in horticulture. While at university he was active in the Agriculture Club and Farm House Fraternity.

Mr. Meers has spent the past two summers working as a summer assistant district agriculturist in the Lamont and Morinville offices respectively.

He will be training with Allen Toly in the Claresholm office.

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# AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

October 4, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 4, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# EXPANSION OF FEED FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Alberta Agriculture Minister Dallas Schmidt has announced a major expansion to the province's Feed Freight Assistance Program.

It is intended to help farmers whose pastures and/or forage crops were severely reduced by early drought this spring and summer to obtain the feed supplies they need to maintain their basic herds this fall and winter.

"This has not been a particularly good year for producing hay," Mr. Schmidt said. "Although late rains have alleviated some of the problems, conditions have still not been helpful for producing livestock feed.

"Poor feed yields and quality have been evident in the Peace River region since spring, and for that reason we implemented a feed freight program for the Peace in late July, somewhat earlier than normal," the Minister said.

He added "We are now updating that program and extending it to other areas of the province which require assistance."

Under the program assistance will be paid for feed bought by the primary livestock producer to support beef and dairy herds, sheep and goat flocks, buffalo (bison) and yak herds and breeding horse herds. 'Backgrounders', which are calves and lambs born and weaned in 1982 and which will be fed over the winter of 1982-83, are also eligible. However, specialized or custom feedlots have been excluded.

This year the program has been amended to allow cows to be transported to areas where feed is available instead of transporting feed to them. It is expected that after being overwintered the animals will be returned to the operator's farm or to wherever they may have originated.

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Expansion Of Feed Freight Assistance Program Announced (cont'd)

The Feed Freight Assistance Program applies to designated areas of Alberta in which local agricultural development committees and elected municipal groups have evaluated conditions and jointly requested participation from Alberta Agriculture.

Areas previously designated in the Peace River Region were County 1, Municipal Districts 130, 133, 135 and 136 and Improvement Districts 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23.

Other areas have now been designated in Agricultural Regions 4 and 5. In Region 5 these areas are Counties 7 (Thorhild), 12 (Athabasca), 11 (Barrhead) and 28 (Lac St. Anne), Municipal District 92 (Westlock) and Improvement Districts 14 and 15. In Region 4 the designated areas are Counties 9 (Beaver), 24 (Vermilion River), 27 (Minburn), 21 (Two Hills), 19 (St. Paul), 13 (Smoky Lake) and 30 (Lamont), Municipal Districts 61 (Wainwright) and 87 (Bonnyville) and Improvement District 18. Further areas may be designated if conditions dictate.

Final assistance levels for the program have now been set said Mr. Schmidt. The transport rate schedule has three stages: 1) the first 25 miles any product is transported will not be eligible for any assistance, 2) the next 100 miles will be eligible for full assistance and 3) any distance over 125 miles will be eligible for 50 per cent the full assistance rate. The gross assistance payable to any one operator, partnership or corporation is based on the allowable forage calculated on the basis of herd inventory to a maximum of $6,000.

For the 1982-83 Feed Freight Assistance Program the rate schedule is 20¢ per ton-mile for hay or straw (10 ¢ per ton-mile after 125 miles) 13¢ per ton-mile for silage (6½¢ per ton-mile after 125 miles) and 9¢ per ton-mile for cubed or pelleted roughage (4½¢ per ton-mile after 125 miles). The maximum assistance claimable in each category is $30/ton for hay, straw and cubed or pelleted forage and $12/ton for silage.

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Expansion Of Feed Freight Assistance Program Announced (cont'd)

The program is retroactive to June 16, 1982 and will end on May 30, 1983. Applications must be submitted by June 30, 1983, and this year all applications will be subject to on-farm inspections. Farmers will be required to produce freight bills and feed invoices. They may use their own trucks or public carriers to transport feed.

Further information and application forms will be available from Alberta Agriculture district offices by November 1, 1982.

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October 4, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ALBERTA FARM FUEL DISTRIBUTION ALLOWANCE FORMS

If you are a bona fide farmer in Alberta, you should have received a declaration form in the mail which, when filed with your bulk fuel dealer, entitles you to buy purple gas and diesel fuel at a considerable discount under the Alberta Farm Fuel Distribution Allowance (AFFDA) Program.

If you have not already filed this form with your dealer, which states that you are actively farming in Alberta and that the purple gas and diesel fuel that you buy is used only for farming purposes, you are asked to do so immediately. And if for some reason you did not receive a form, you should pick one up from your bulk fuel dealer or from your district agriculturist.

All Alberta farmers are entitled to receive a 31.8¢ a gallon or 7¢ a litre discount under the AFFDA Program on purple gas and diesel fuel that they use on their farms. On average they save $1,500 a year, and the Alberta government spends a total of $75 million a year on this program.

The AFFDA Program is administered by the revenue administration division of Alberta Treasury, which works in co-operation with oil companies and bulk dealers in the province. The bulk dealers deduct the allowance from the price they charge you for purple gas and diesel fuel and they are reimbursed by the oil companies, which, in turn, are reimbursed by the Alberta Government.

You can obtain more information on the Alberta Farm Fuel Distribution Allowance Program from AFFDA, Alberta Treasury, 9811 - 109 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K OC8 (Telephone:427-3044).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# PRECONDITIONING PAYS OFF

Cow/calf producers who increase the sale price, weaning weight and sales weight of their calves by preconditioning them can increase their net returns per cow by as much as [illegible]

Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock supervisor at Red Deer, Dwight Karren says calf producers who wish to precondition their calves under the Alberta Certified Preconditioned Feeder Program (ACPF) should be making the necessary arrangements now. He points out that the program has two options: the preconditioning option and the preimmunization option.

[illegible]

- Cattle enrolled in the program must have been owned for 60 days by the operator who is preconditioning them.
- Cattle must be at least four months of age before vaccinations are given.
- Castration and dehorning must be done at least three weeks before the sale.
- Black leg vaccination must be done at least three weeks before the sale.
- IBR and $PI_3$ vaccination must be done by a licensed veterinarian at least [illegible]ce weeks before the sale.
- Warble grub treatment must have been done at least three weeks before the sale.
- Cattle must have been weaned at least 30 days before the sale.
- Green tags are applied to cattle by a licensed veterinarian.
- Cattle are accompanied by a properly completed certificate at the time of the sale.

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Preconditioning Pays Off (cont'd)

Preimmunization Option

Preimmunization includes all of the above mandatory requirements except that calves are not weaned before they are sold and they are identified with white eartags applied by a veterinarian and accompanied by a completed certificate.

To meet the requirements of either of the above program options, a calf producer should be scheduling weaning, feeding, vaccinations and grub control now. The first step in scheduling these will be to decide upon the sale date. A producer wishing to sell at an approved ACPF sale should first contact the management of the auction offering such a sale. There will be 13 such sales at eight different locations in Alberta this year. They are:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Didsbury | — | October 30 |
| Fort Macleod | — | November 4 and December 2 |
| Ponoka | — | November 6 and December 4 |
| Grande Prairie | — | November 8 and December 6 |
| Olds | — | November 8 and December 6 |
| Clyde | — | November 15 and December 13 |
| Rocky Mountain House | — | December 3 |
| Fairview | — | December 8 |

Once a sale date has been selected the producer should then schedule dates for vaccinations, weaning, castration, dehorning, grub treatment and eartagging. Because the IBR - $PI_3$ vaccination and eartagging, with the official ACPF tags, must be done under the supervision of a veterinarian, arrangements to have these done must be made with the local veterinarian.

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Preconditioning Pays Off (cont'd)

Upon the successful completion of the requirements, the local veterinarian will issue a signed certificate, which will also be signed by the producer and which will accompany the cattle to the sale.

The most obvious benefit to the cow/calf producer from preconditioning is in the price premium received for preconditioned calves. Because feeders recognize the advantages of preconditioning, they are willing to pay a premium for these calves. Mr. Karren reports the price premium for steer calves was 6.95¢ /lb in 1980 and 4.04 ¢ in 1981.

A somewhat less obvious return from preconditioning is an increased sale weight of preconditioned calves over regular calves. Depending upon pasture conditions and the weaned calf feeding program, preconditioned calves are capable of gaining 1.0 lb/day more than regular calves. A 30-day preconditioning program could result in 30 extra pounds of calf.

In addition, the sale weight is increased through decreased shrinkage during marketing. Preconditioned calves on dry feed and accustomed to automatic waterers could shrink 2 percentage points less than regular calves. And the overall effect of increased gains and decreased shrinkage could result in 40 extra pounds of calf to sell.

Another advantage to the calf producer that is very difficult to measure, says Mr. Karren, is increased cow productivity. Weaning the calf from the cow earlier allows the cow to utilize the remaining pasture to build body reserves in preparation for winter. Cows in better shape in the fall winter better and have better reserves to overcome the extra demand of pregnancy and lactation than cows in poorer condition. The net effect is earlier rebreeding and more cows settling, which results in more pounds of calf weaned per cow. Increasing weaning percent by 3 percentage points and age of calf by 5 days results in approximately 25 extra pounds of calf weaned.

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Preconditioning Pays Off (cont'd)

Certainly weaning the calf and feeding it on dry feed increases the cost of producing a calf. Some of the costs associated with preconditioning are for feed, vaccines, labor, death losses and drugs. The cost of preconditioning calves ranged between $25-$30 per calf in 1980 and 1981.

For details on calf preconditioning contact your local veterinarian or district agriculturist.

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October 4, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SHORT OF FEED – HERE ARE SOME IDEAS

The head of Alberta Agriculture's nutrition section, Ron Weisenburger, advises farmers who are going to be short of feed this winter to plan their strategy for coping with the situation now. He suggests the following practices to make your feed go as far as possible.

- Wean your calves now, or creep feed them, or supply supplemental feed to your cows if your pasture is short so that your cows go into the winter feeding period in good condition.

- Harvest greenfeed and/or bale your straw if you are in an area where there is a shortage of hay. If you do not have enough greenfeed or straw of your own, try to make a deal with a neighbor, because such a deal will probably be cheaper than purchasing hay from outside your area.

- Get your feed analyzed as soon as possible so that you know the quality of feed you have for feeding this winter. If you need assistance, your district agriculturist, regional livestock supervisor or provincial nutritionist will help you develop a suitable feeding program.

- Take an inventory of the type and amount of feed you have on hand, calculate the type and amount of feed you expect to need this winter and subtract the latter, so that you know how much additional feed you are going to have to buy.

- Evaluate and cost out your alternative sources of feed and then locate and purchase it.

- Cull all non-productive cows from your herd this fall.

- Decide whether it will be to your advantage to sell your steer calves this fall or to buy feed for them.

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Short Of Feed -- Here Are Some Ideas (cont'd)

- Make your preliminary selection of replacement heifers now so that you can sell the culls if you do not want to feed them this winter.

- Check out the possibility of feeding your calves at a custom feedlot before deciding to sell them. Despite some disadvantages, you may also want to move your cow herd to a custom feedlot for part of the winter if you are very short of feed.

Plan to feed your cows this winter in groups based on their condition and their age. This may require some additional fencing and waterers. The fencing should be done now as it can be pretty tough to do in December.

- Reduce feed wastage by building new feeders now if you are short of them. Remember a good feeder does not cost, it pays.

- Consider grinding low quality forage and roughage to increase the consumption of these feeds. The provision of supplemental protein, minerals and vitamins is usually essential when feeding low quality roughage that has been ground.

- Save your best forage for this year's calves and for your cows' next calving season.

- Consider feeding grain to replace some hay in your wintering cow rations. Feed grain will be available in most areas this winter at a good price. The early fall frost that was experienced in a number of northern areas will decrease both the grades and prices of some feed grain, which in most cases will be suitable for wintering beef cows.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SOIL TESTING TIME AGAIN

October is the time to look at your soil nutrient reserves for next year's crop. Samples taken after October 1 will give you a good indication of what soil fertility conditions will be like at seeding time the following year.

The director of Alberta Agriculture's soil and feed testing laboratory in Edmonton, Don Laverty, says the regular soil sampling of at least some fields on your farm will provide you with basic information for your total farm fertilizer program, and that your soil's nitrogen supply is likely to vary considerably from one year to the next. Also, the provision of nitrogen can be very costly if too much or too little is provided in your fertilizer program. Mr. Laverty points out that soil tests provide a reliable estimate of available nitrogen reserves, and that the accuracy of this estimate is improved if soil samples are taken from the soil surface (0-15 cm) and from two subsoil levels (15-30 cm and 30-60 cm).

Care in taking and handling soil samples is essential, Mr. Laverty says. He recommends taking samples from 15 to 20 sites in a field, thoroughly mixing them together and then taking about a pound of the composite mixture and air drying it. When submitted, the sample should be accompanied by information on the cropping history of the field and the crop to be grown the following year. The cropping history is necessary for interpreting the soil test results.

If you have had a special cropping problem in part or parts of your field or fields, you should take separate soil samples in these areas. These samples will often provide information that can be used to improve or to correct the problem.

Soil sampling supplies, a leaflet describing the soil sampling technique and information on Alberta's soil testing program can be obtained from your district agriculturist.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ENERGY CONSERVATION SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Alberta Agriculture's home and community design branch will be holding a number of seminars and workshops during the next few months on residential energy conservation.

Topics will range from how to build a new low energy home to passive solar design and retrofitting an existing home for higher energy efficiency. Some of the seminars will consist of day-long classroom discussions while others have been designed to enable participants to experience various building techniques.

Following is a list of the seminars and workshops, their locations, and dates.

| Topic | Location | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Retrofitting | Ardrossan | October 16 (day) |
| Retrofitting | Ardrossan | October 19 (evening) |
| Retrofitting | Crestomere | October 20 (day) |
| Retrofitting | Leduc | October 23 (day) |
| Retrofitting | Manning | October 26 (day) |
| Retrofitting | Valleyview | October 27 (day) |
| New home construction | Warner | November 9 (day) |
| New home construction | Vulcan | November 13 (day) |

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Energy Conservation Seminars And Workshops (cont'd)

| Topic | Location | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Retrofitting | Drayton Valley | November 14 (day) |
| Retrofitting | Sangudo | November 18 (morning) |
| Retrofitting | Red Deer | January 27 (day) |
| New home construction | Athabasca | February 15 (day) |

Anyone who would like more information on these seminars and workshops or to register for one should contact his or her district home economist.

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October 4, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 1982 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Every year students from around Alberta are eligible to apply for scholarships through Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch, and selections are made from the highest averages in 4-H achievements and scholastic standings. Doug Bienert of the 4-H branch says the selections committee had a very difficult time this year selecting winners because the calibre of applicants was so high.

Successful applicants and the scholarships that they won are listed below.

### Alberta Wheat Board Surplus Monies Trust Scholarships ($300)

| | |
|---|---|
| *Lethbridge Region* | Jeffrey Green<br>Mossleigh, Alberta |
| *Calgary Region* | Craig Poffenroth<br>Kathyrn, Alberta |
| *East-Central Region* | Deana Richards<br>Czar, Alberta |
| *West-Central Region* | Katharine Undin<br>Kingman, Alberta |
| *Vermilion Region* | Colleen Kirylchuk<br>Lac La Biche, Alberta |
| *Barrhead Region* | Lori Properzi<br>Westlock, Alberta |
| *Peace Region* | Glenda Pollard<br>Blueberry Mountain, Alberta |

- (cont'd) -

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1982 Scholarship Winners (cont'd)

Alberta Wheat Pool – First Year ($300)

Donna Petersen
Tilley, Alberta

Leona Quantz
Innisfail, Alberta

Andrea Hanson
Airdrie, Alberta

Alberta Wheat Pool – Second Year ($300)

Catherine Reinders
Deadwood, Alberta

Canadian National Exhibition ($1,000)

Henry Lange
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Inga Marr Memorial ($300)

Donna Sherwood
Winfield, Alberta

Hoechst Canada Bursary ($500)

Kevin Torsher
Bow Island, Alberta

Norma Jean Gray Scholarships ($500 and $300)

Colleen Munroe ($500)
Calgary, Alberta

Larry Ruud ($300)
Vermilion, Alberta

- (cont'd) -

1982 Scholarship Winners (cont'd)

World of Beef ($500)

Janis Kendrick
Pickardville, Alberta

Alberta Dairymen's Association and Alberta Agriculture ($3,000)

Jady Grad
Leduc, Alberta

Mark Cameron
Crossfield, Alberta

Pennington Memorial ($500)

Colleen Maykut
Barrhead, Alberta

Marvin Worobec
Cherhill, Alberta

Central Alberta Dairy Pool ($500)

Linda Kushak
Edmonton, Alberta

Maxine Cameron
Crossfield, Alberta

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October 4, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ADC GENERAL MANAGER OF LENDING APPOINTED

Harold Hanna, chairman and managing director of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), has announced the appointment of Robert Thompson to the position of general manager of lending.

He will be responsible for managing all financial assistance services to farmers and agribusinesses throughout Alberta. He will also be responsible for designing, implementing and directing the corporation's various loan programs.

Mr. Thompson brings to his new position many years of experience in the credit field. He joined the corporation in May of this year as the manager of agribusiness lending. Prior to that he held the positions of credit manager and insolvency administrator for Ontario-based financial consulting firms. He was also an executive director of the financial division of the Saskatchewan Economic Development Corporation and has held various other positions in credit-related fields.

Mr. Thompson's previous experience in directing a variety of lending programs will be of great value in his new position of managing ADC's lending operations.

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# COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

1982

Agri-Food Week
Canada . . . . . October 4 - 11

New Swine Fair
Pavilion Building
Exhibition Grounds
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . October 14 - 15

World Food Day
Canada . . . . . October 16

Agricultural Credit Conference
Four Seasons Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . October 24 - 27

Roundup '82 Country College
Calgary Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . October 27 - 31

Women of Unifarm — Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 2 - 3

United Grain Growers Ltd — Annual Meeting
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . November 3 - 4

Northlands Farmfair
Edmonton Northlands
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 4 - 15

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
Toronto, Ontario. . . . . November 11 - 20

The North American Symposium on Allelopathy
University of Illinois
Champaign, Illinois, U.S.A . . . . . November 14 - 17

Edmonton Northlands Charolais Sale
Exhibition Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 15

Agricultural Business Management 1
Goldeye Centre
West of Nordegg, Alberta . . . . . November 15 - 17

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Fall Fair and Mexabition
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... November 19 - 23

Alberta Wheat Pool Annual Meeting
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta ..... November 22 - December 3

Agribition and Mexabition
Regina, Saskatchewan ..... November 27 - December 3

Entomological Society of America and Canada
Royal York Hotel
Toronto, Ontario ..... November 27 - December 3

National Farmers Union National Convention
Bessborough Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... November 29 - December 3

Agribition Charolais Sale
Regina, Saskatchewan ..... November 30

Alberta Polled Hereford Association — Annual Meeting
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta ..... December 5

Alberta Cattle Commission — Annual Meeting
Westward Inn
Calgary, Alberta ..... December 6 - 8

Western Stockgrowers 18th Annual Cattlemen's Short Course
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta ..... December 13 - 17

1983

Palliser Wheat Growers Association — Annual Convention
Westin Hotel
Calgary, Alberta ..... January 3 - 6

Unifarm Annual Convention
Edmonton, Alberta ..... January 11 - 14

1983 Annual Convention and Trade Fair
Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta ..... January 14 - 15

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Alberta Pork Seminar
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . . January 19 - 21

Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants Ltd
Westin Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . January 20 - 22

Alberta Canola Growers Convention
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . January 26 - 28

Canadian Charolais — Annual Convention and Charolais National Sale
Fort Garry Hotel
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . February 3 - 5

Provincial Service Board Conference
Capri Hotel
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . February 6 - 9

Alberta Dairymen's Association Annual Convention
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . February 7 - 9

Alberta Charolais Association — Annual Meeting
Continental Inn
Medicine Hat, Alberta . . . . . February 18 - 19

Agriculture Week
Alberta . . . . . March 7 - 13

Agro-Electronics Show
Westerner Exposition Grounds
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . March 14 - 16

Edmonton Northlands Stock Show
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . March 20 - 25

Accent '83
Market Prospects for Grains and Oilseeds
Convention Inn South
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . March 22 - 23

Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit
Banff, Alberta . . . . . March 27 - 30

Alberta Dairy Seminar
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . . April 6 - 8

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology
Chateau Laurier
Ottawa, Ontario . . . . . May 29 - June 2

Associated Country Women of the World
World Conference
Vancouver, B.C . . . . . June 19 - 29

Farm Progress Show
Exhibition Grounds
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . June 22 - 25

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Tour
Picture Butte, Alberta . . . . . July 6 - 8

Agricultural Institute of Canada
Truro, Nova Scotia . . . . . July 10 - 14

33rd Annual Conference of Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture
Brudenell Resort
Cardigan, Prince Edward Island . . . . . July 17 - 22

1983 World Show and Sale of Charolais Cattle
Red Deer Exhibition Grounds
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . July 18 - 23

International Training and Development Conference
Holland, Netherlands. . . . . August 15 - 19

Canadian Agricultural Extension Council
London, Ontario . . . . . September 12 - 16

Saskatoon Fall Fair and Mexabition
Prairieland Exhibition Grounds
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 18 - 22

Canadian Western Agribition
Exhibition Grounds
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 25 - December 2

# AGRI-NEWS

October 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK


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October 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# NORTHERN DROUGHT DISASTER CROP ADVANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Alberta Agriculture Minister Dallas W. Schmidt has announced a Northern Drought Disaster Crop Advance Assistance Program for Alberta farmers who have experienced significantly lower than normal crop yields because of adverse weather conditions.

The program is particularly directed towards those farmers whose crops received very little precipitation during June and July, which resulted in essentially no crop in some areas of the Peace River region in 1982.

The situation was made worse by the fact that less than 30 per cent of farmers in the Peace River region took out all-risk crop insurance in 1982. Hence, a large number of them had no protection against adverse weather conditions.

"It's an unfortunate situation," said Mr. Schmidt, "because the protection was available and we do promote our hail and crop insurance programs quite a bit at the start of the year.

"However, some producers feel the program does not adequately meet their needs. We have been acting on these concerns. Representatives of the Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation have met with producers in local communities to discuss their concerns and methods that we might use to resolve these concerns.

"While our crop insurance programs will be upgraded in 1983 that still leaves us with many farmers who should have been covered in 1982 but were not. The Northern Drought Disaster Crop Advance Assistance Program will help in that regard, and I would like to emphasize that the program is available to all eligible producers who wish to apply, not just to those without crop insurance."

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Northern Drought Disaster Crop Advance Assistance Program (cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture will operate the Northern Drought Disaster Crop Advance Assistance Program and the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation will provide administrative support. Under the program Alberta Agriculture will advance payments to those farmers whose yields in 1982 were significantly reduced.

The province will forgive the advance to any farmer who requests and receives assistance, providing that he takes out crop insurance until and including 1985 on at least all of the seeded acreage of the crop for which he received the advance in 1982.

A farmer may apply on all or only part of his seeded acreage, but he must apply on all the acreage of a specific crop and he must report all of his acreage and any production of any crop for which he claims.

The Northern Drought Disaster Crop Advance Assistance Program will cover only wheat, oats, barley, rye, mixed grains, flaxseed, canola and rapeseed, mustard and honey, and only farm operators are eligible. Landlords may not apply.

The program will be effective in only those areas designated by the minister of agriculture. Requests from other municipalities for inclusion in the program will be considered. Documentation of the extent and nature of the local adverse weather and its impact on the crops must accompany the request.

The minister has designated the following areas for immediate inclusion in the Northern Drought Disaster Crop Advance Assistance Program. They are: Improvement Districts 16, 17 (west), 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 and the Counties of Smoky River, Grande Prairie, Spirit River, Fairview and Peace River.

- (cont'd) -

Northern Drought Disaster Crop Advance Assistance Program (cont'd)

The eligibility of individual producers for payment will be determined on the basis of criteria similar to that used in the Canada-Alberta All-Risk Crop Insurance Program. Coverage will be based on 75 per cent of the 'C' soil type, 60 per cent coverage level and low price option less premium (or equivalents).

The advance payment will be repayable to the province. All recipients of the advance will be required to take out all-risk crop insurance in 1983, 1984 and 1985. If they do so, the government will forgive one-third of the advance for each year that they take out the crop insurance. If a recipient fails to fulfil his obligations, he will be expected to repay the outstanding principle to which interest will be added at the rate of 10 per cent per year.

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October 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ASSISTANCE FOR CANOLA CRUSHING INDUSTRY

Alberta's Agriculture Minister, Dallas W. Schmidt, has announced a one-year assistance program aimed at easing the critical financial situation now facing the province's canola crushing industry.

Canola oil and meal prices are depressed as a result of a world surplus of soybeans. The $20.4 million program is being offered as a stop-loss measure aimed at sustaining canola crushing operations in the face of a shutdown of a significant portion of Alberta's processing capacity.

"Alberta's canola crushing industry is vital to the growth of the province's agriculture and food products sector; domestic and international markets for canola oil and meal continue to grow," said Mr. Schmidt. "This significant value-added industry is being assisted through a one-year program. Alberta's canola producers must continue to have the province's canola crushers as a market for a large part of their production. Long-term prospects remain bright."

The program which is being introduced provides direct assistance of $40 per tonne of canola crushed during the 1982-83 crop year to a maximum of 90 per cent of last year's canola crushing levels. The level of assistance provided will be reduced by any net benefit accruing to the crushing industry by resolution of the Crow Rate issue.

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Assistance For Canola Crushing Industry (cont'd)

Mr. Schmidt included in his announcement increased assistance levels under the current Tank Car Lease Program to 90 per cent from 70 per cent. This covers the lease cost of tank cars used for transporting canola oil to market.

"Formal dialogue with both the production and crushing sectors will be established regarding the future prospects of all sectors of the canola industry," Mr. Schmidt said.

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October 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CANADA-ALBERTA CANOLA BREEDING PROGRAM

Alberta Agriculture Minister Dallas Schmidt has announced the creation of a new program that will address the need of Alberta farmers for canola varieties specifically adapted to various regions in Alberta.

The Canada-Alberta Canola Breeding Program, a cooperative effort involving Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Canada's research stations at Beaverlodge, Lethbridge and Saskatoon, and the Alberta Research Council, is specifically designed to develop varieties adapted to the Peace River region and to the irrigated and dryland soils of southern Alberta.

"During the past decade canola production has become a very important component of Alberta's agricultural sector," said Mr. Schmidt. And during the last five-year period, 1977-1981, the annual value of the province's canola production averaged more than $306 million.

"Contributing to this growth has been the development of '00' or low-erucic acid, low glucosinolate canola which enabled us to develop new markets for animal feed and products for human consumption," added the minister.

The characteristic of past rapeseed breeding programs was the development of varieties that could be widely adapted. However, to maintain long-term growth in canola production, the Alberta Canola Growers Association indicated that canola varieties tailored to the specific climatic factors of various areas in Alberta were required.

The specific objective of the canola breeding program is to develop varieties that meet the needs of three different agro-production zones: the long day and short growing season of the Peace River block, the moisture and temperature stress present in southern

- (cont'd) -

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Canada-Alberta Canola Breeding Program (cont'd)

Alberta's dryland areas and the intensive production factors that exist in southern Alberta's irrigated areas. The program will also address the particular disease problems of each area.

The Canola Breeding Program will begin operation during the winter of 1982-83, in order to begin varietal breeding and selection in the spring of 1983. Its first priority will be to purchase the equipment needed to work research plots. Purchase of sophisticated analysis equipment will also be required.

"The selection of a joint federal-provincial effort reflects the current research capability of Agriculture Canada's research stations," says Mr. Schmidt. "We recognize that Agriculture Canada has operational research facilities, a large germ plasm bank for use in crossbreeding new varieties, extensive professional expertise and the necessary technical support staff to implement such a program in a very short period. I think we can expect faster results from a joint effort involving Agriculture Canada than if we conducted the entire program by ourselves."

The program will be conducted under the existing Canada-Alberta Research Agreement which was first established to facilitate Agriculture Canada's involvement in Alberta's Farming for the Future Program.

The first-year cost of the new Canada-Alberta Canola Breeding Program is estimated at $500,000; and about 80 per cent of the initial funding will be used for equipment purchases. The program cost in 1983-84 is expected to be approximately $350,000.

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October 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## $4.3 MILLION CHEESE PLANT TO BE BUILT AT BASHAW

A joint venture by five major Western Canadian dairy co-ops will see the construction of a $4.3 million cheese processing plant at Bashaw.

The new plant will be owned by Northern Alberta Dairy Pool Ltd. (NADP) and will receive $1.2 million worth of assistance under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement. It will consist of 22,000 square feet, contain a full production line for processed cheese slices — the first of its kind in Western Canada — and will be operated by Armstrong Foods Ltd. Armstrong Foods is owned equally by the five joint venture partners — Central Alberta Dairy Pool, Fraser Valley Milk Producers Association of B.C., Dairy Producers Co-op of Saskatchewan and the Manitoba Dairy Co-operative and NADP.

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement is cost-shared by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture. More than $17 million worth of assistance has been provided to nutritive processors in Alberta since the agreement was signed in 1975.

***Further information on the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement can be obtained from Dr. Jim Wiebe, Executive Director, Rural Development, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone:427-4287).***

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October 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## DEADLINE FOR IMPLANT DUTY REFUNDS

November 1, 1982 is the deadline for submitting claims for a refund of the duty paid by farmers on cattle implants that were purchased between April 1, 1981 and December 31, 1981.

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association has agreed to act as an agent for farmers who are eligible for a refund under the federal government's implant duty refund program And anyone who wishes to claim a refund should submit original copies of his Ralgro or Synovex invoices or receipts to C.A. Gracey, manager, Canadian Cattlemen's Association, 590 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario, M6N 3E3. From there they will be forwarded to the federal government in Ottawa.

The refunds will be sent to the Canadian Cattlemen's Association which will forward them, less a handling charge of $2 per cheque or 15 per cent of the gross refund, whichever is the lesser, to the applicants.

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association will not be handling refunds for implants bought between January 1, 1982 and June 20, 1982, when the implant duty refund program was announced. Apparently some implant distributors will be adjusting their 1982 price structure to reflect the duty refunds, while others may arrange for retailers to refund the duty directly to their customers.

Further information on the implant duty refund program can be obtained from Ross Gould, Alberta Agriculture,9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-5335).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ADVANTAGES OF BUYING PRECONDITIONED CALVES

Preconditioned calves with their superior health, lower vaccination costs, lower death losses, reduced shrinkage and resulting superior production performance should have lower costs of gain than regular calves and should be worth more to the feeder.

Dwight Karren, Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock supervisor at Red Deer, reports that feeders paid a premium of 4.04 ¢ per pound last year and 6.95 ¢ per pound in 1980 for calves at Alberta Certified Preconditioned Feeder (ACPF) approved sales.

He points out that calves that have been preconditioned under the ACPF Program must have been castrated, dehorned and treated for warbles at least three weeks before being sold; they must have been vaccinated for black leg, IBR and $PI_3$ by a veterinarian at least three weeks before being sold; and they must have been weaned for at least 30 days before being sold.

Such animals will have become used to eating dry feed from feed bunks and to drinking water from automatic waterers before they are sold, and they will have built up an immunity to diseases that they will encounter in a feedlot. And the time, cost and stress associated with processing feedlot calves will have been considerably reduced in preconditioned animals because they have already been dehorned, castrated and treated for grubs. Calves that have been preconditioned under the ACPF Program are tagged with green eartags by a veterinarian prior to being sold, and they are accompanied at the sale by a certificate stating that they have met all the preconditioning requirements.

The ACPF Program also has a preimmunization option. Calves that are enrolled in this part of the program have to meet all the criteria required for preconditioned calves except that they do not have to be weaned prior to sale. These animals are identified at ACPF-approved sales by white eartags and they are also accompanied by a certificate.

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Advantages Of Buying Preconditioned Calves (cont'd)

Mr. Karren says that most of the problems associated with starting calves in a feedlot occur within the first 30 days and much of the stress that causes these problems can be eliminated if calves have already been adapted to the feedlot situation.

Feeders who would like to purchase ACPF calves at an ACPF-approved sales this fall should make a note of the following places and dates.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Didsbury | — | October 30 |
| Fort Macleod | — | November 4 and December 2 |
| Ponoka | — | November 6 and December 4 |
| Grande Prairie | — | November 8 and December 6 |
| Olds | — | November 8 and December 6 |
| Clyde | — | November 15 and December 13 |
| Rocky Mountain House | — | December 3 |
| Fairview | — | December 8 |

Information about the above sales can be obtained from the sale managers or from district agriculturists.

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CORRECTION

United Grain Growers Ltd — Annual Meeting will be held in the Banff Springs Hotel, Banff, Alberta on November 3 - 4; NOT in Winnipeg, Manitoba as stated in "Coming Agricultural Events" (October 4, 1982 issue of Agri-News).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## AGRICULTURAL CREDIT CONFERENCE

The Canadian Bankers' Association will hold its 10th annual Agricultural Credit Conference at the Four Seasons Hotel in Edmonton from October 24 to 27.

Following are the topics that will be covered in the three sections.

Plenary Sessions

Understanding your Customer; Money Market Outlook; Future Farm Finance Scenarios; Farm Finance (U.S.A./Canada) — Meeting the Challenge of Turbulent Times; US Commercial Bank and Production Credit Association Canadian Bank.

Concurrent Sessions

Farm Resource Management During Economic Uncertainty; Long Term Lending — Who Has the Answer?; Open Market vs. Supply Management in Obtaining Credit; Family Goals — Farm Goals — Are They Compatible?; Legal Rights Related to Farm Security; Early Symptoms of Potential Difficulty.

Outlook Sessions

Farm Machinery Outlook; Farm Supply Outlook; Livestock Outlook; and Grain Outlook.

The conference will commence with registration on the evening of October 24 and end with a summary of proceedings on the morning of October 27. The cost of the conference per person is $195. A banquet ticket will cost an additional $30 and a special spouse program will cost $60.

Further information can be obtained from Mrs. Monique Greenwood, The Canadian Bankers' Association, P.O. Box 282, Toronto Dominion Centre, Toronto, Ontario, M5K 1K2. (Telephone: (416) 362-6092).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NORTHEAST REGION FARM MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

The northeast region of Alberta Agriculture is sponsoring a two-day seminar on farm financial management in Wainwright on November 22 and 23.

The topics covered in the seminar include:

- "The Importance of Financial Management in Achieving a Farm Family's Goals" — Mike Jackson, Agriculture Business Associates, Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A.
- "Understanding Interest and Inflation Rates" — Michael Walker, Frazer Institute of Canada, Vancouver, B.C.
- "Microcomputers — A Financial Management Tool" — Gary Fisher, Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, and Roger Buxton, farmer, Consort, Alberta.
- "Your Lender — How to Keep on Good Terms with Him" — Al Stuart, Agriculture Department, Toronto Dominion Bank.
- "To Buy or Not to Buy — That is the Question" — Gary Bradshaw, Regional Economist, Alberta Agriculture, Red Deer, Alberta.
- "Stress in the Farm Family" — Deneve Freeborn, Counsellor, Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.
- "The Farming Game — How to Evaluate its Financial Risk" — Len Bauer, Department of Rural Economy, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta.
- "Hedging as a Financial Management Tool" — Dwayne Couldwell, Regional Economist, Alberta Agriculture, Airdrie, Alberta.

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Northeast Region Farm Management Seminar (cont'd)

- "Family Communications and Decision-Making" – Bob Simmerman, Alberta Agriculture, Lethbridge, Alberta.

November 5 is the deadline for registering for this farm management seminar, which will cost $60 per person or $80 per couple. The fee includes two lunches and an evening banquet.

You can obtain more information from your local district office.

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October 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SEED TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

November 10, 1982 is the deadline for registering for the seed technology workshop that will be held at Olds College in Olds on November 15, 16 and 17.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide seed buyers, seed growers, seed cleaning plant personnel, seed company representatives and members of the seed industry in general with the latest technological information that is applicable to this industry. It is also designed to provide participants with an opportunity to share their experiences in seed technology and their concerns.

Following is a list of the topics that will be covered in the workshop.

- Field Production of Seed – Bob Thirsk, Cen Alta Seeds Ltd., Kelsey, Alberta.
- Principles of Seed Cleaning – Vaughan Hartwick, Hartwick Industries, London, Ontario.
- Seed Certification Secan – Orin Clayton, CSGA, Ottawa, Ontario.
- Seed Drying – George Daugela, Vertec Industries, Vermilion, Alberta.
- Seed Storage – Mary Hostetler, Olds College, Olds, Alberta.
- Purity and Variety Identification – Federal Plant Products Division Staff.
- Germination, Vigor and Tetrazolium Testing – Mil MacPhee, senior analyst CSAAC, Alberta Wheat Pool, Camrose and Maureen Champ, accredited seed analyst, Norwest Feed Research Ltd., Edmonton.
- Seed Processing and Handling Equipment – Vaughan Hartwick.
- Seed Quality – Yudi Singh, Seed Standards Unit, Plant Product Division, Ottawa, Ontario.
- Seed Marketing – Bruce Fuhr, national director, CSGA.
- Bookkeeping for Seed Cleaning Plants – Dwayne Couldwell, regional economist , Alberta Agriculture, Airdrie.

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Seed Technology Workshop (cont'd)

The workshop will include a bus tour to the Olds Co-op Cleaning Plant and to a couple of local seed farms.

The cost of the workshop is $100, which covers registration, tuition, notes, coffee breaks and the Bar-B-Que. A $30 non-refundable deposit must accompany applications (cheques should be made payable to Olds College). Room and board will probably be available at the college residence for those who register early.

Further information on the course and accommodation and application forms can be obtained from the Department of Continuing Education, Olds College, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO (Telephone: 556-8344 and 556-8322).

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October 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NORTHERN ALBERTA FARM WIVES' CONFERENCE

Alberta Agriculture's fifth annual Farm Wives' Conference will "Stress the Positive" in the challenges facing farm women.

This two-day conference, co-planned by the Peace Region district home economists and a committee of farm women, will take place in Grande Prairie on November 17 and 18 and is designed to provide rural women with an opportunity to share ideas and gain new and updated information. The select-a-session topics will include current parenting techniques, soil sampling, home computers, managing the clothing dollar, landscaping, retirement planning, income tax and bookkeeping, fire prevention and money-saving ideas in the home.

A program for children up to 6 years of age will be available and games, songs, stories and other activities will all contribute to an enjoyable experience for them.

The district home economists of the Peace River region extend an invitation to all farm women to attend the conference. The registration deadline is November 10, 1982, and application forms are available from the district offices.

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October 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# PRE-SEASON WARM-UP

by Debbie Brekke
District Home Economist, Alberta Agriculture, Airdrie

It's hard to believe that winter's just around the corner but it is! And if you live on a farm it is time to get your house ready for those cold, blustery winter winds.

Start by checking all windows, doors and other openings. To check for air leakage use a "draft indicator" like a smouldering piece of cotton string or a lit candle. Move the indicator around the frames and sashes of your windows. If the smoke or flame dances around you need caulking and/or weatherstripping. Try slipping a quarter under the door. If it goes through easily, you need weatherstripping.

Seal all leaks by caulking and weatherstripping doors, windows and your attic hatch. It's easy to do yourself and you could save 10 per cent on your energy bill. Ask for the pamphlet "How to Weatherstrip and Caulk Your Home" (1700-77-33), from your district office.

If your home has an uninsulated basement, one third of your total heat loss can occur through the floors and walls. Upgrade your basement walls by adding insulation to the inside or outside of the foundation. Get a copy of "How to Insulate Your Basement — Exterior Method" (1700-77-32) or "How to Insulate Your Basement — Interior Method" (1700-77-31) from your district office.

Did you know that proper furnace maintenance will also reduce your fuel costs, extend the life of your equipment and ensure a safer system? Clean the air filter, vacuum around the burner and fan compartments, lubricate the furnace motor and inspect the belt

- (cont'd) -

Pre-Season Warm-Up (cont'd)

before you start it up this year. For more information on maintaining your heating system ask for "Your Home Heating System — Using it Efficiently", again from your district office.

"Home Insulation Techniques" (1713-10) is an excellent source of information if you plan to insulate your attic or basement. It too is available from your district office.

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# AGRI-NEWS

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October 18, 1982

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October 18, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION COUNCIL CONFERENCE

*Left to right, are the newly-elected executives of the Canadian Agricultural Extension Council for 1983: secretary-treasurer, Bob Brack of Saskatchewan, past president Dick Huggard of Nova Scotia, new president Irene Leavitt of Alberta, and vice-president Kevin Aucoin of Newfoundland.*

The need for a serious look at present university and college programs for training agricultural extension workers in Canada from the standpoint of communication skills was stressed at an extension conference in Fredericton, Nova Scotia, recently.

The Canadian Agricultural Extension Council held three days of meetings with talks focused on the future role of agricultural extension in the overall development of the agriculture and food sector in Canada. The meetings were attended by representatives from all the provinces except British Columbia and Quebec.

Nancy Cook, director of the Food Nutrition Branch of the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture and co-ordinator of the 36th annual conference, said extension workers are properly trained technically but often lack training in social sciences to better communicate their skills to farmers.

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Canadian Agricultural Extension Council Conference (cont'd)

"A major concern expressed during the conference was about how we are going to do a better job of training extension workers to serve extension needs and relate that to university requirements for training of extension people", Mrs. Cook said.

"Historically, extension work was conducted on a one-on-one basis between the agricultural representative and the farmer", she continued. "But more and more the role is changing to working collectively with groups of farmers, farmer organizations, and marketing boards."

Mrs. Cook also said the change has been gradually brought about by decreasing departmental budgets across the country, the increasing use of computer technology on the farm, and the increasing use of mass media to communicate to farmers.

She believes a compromise between using mass media and the traditional 'one-on-one' method must be reached to preserve the "friendly human element presently existing between 'ag-rep' and farmer."

She said in the United States, agricultural schools offer extension programs to upgrade the skills of extension workers, and there is a need for similar courses for Canadian practitioners. However, Western Canada is beginning development in this area with summer school sessions starting next year in Vancouver.

The meeting wound up after a panel discussion on the future of extension and election of a new executive committee.

Irene Leavitt, director of Alberta Agriculture's Home Economics and 4-H division, succeeds Richard Huggard, director of the extension branch of Nova Scotia Agriculture, as president of the Canadian Agricultural Extension Council.

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Canadian Agricultural Extension Council Conference (cont'd)

Other elected officers include vice president Kevin Aucoin, director of extension and veterinary services, Newfoundland Department of Rural Agricultural and Northern Development; and secretary-treasurer, Bob Brack, professor of extension, University of Saskatchewan.

The 1983 conference will be held in Ontario.

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Alberta
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October 18, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## INFORMATION ON ALBERTA'S INTEREST REDUCTION PROGRAMS

Information brochures on the Alberta Heritage Fund Mortgage Interest Reduction Program and the Alberta Heritage Fund Small Business and Farm Interest Shielding Program have gone out to more than 50,000 Alberta farmers.

The brochures outline who is eligible for these programs: what loans are eligible for interest reduction; the rate of interest that eligible loans will be reduced to; and the period for which each program will be in place. They also provide answers to a number of specific questions relating to the programs.

Gerry Parlby of Alberta Agriculture says when a farmer's mortgage covers land, buildings and the farm home, the proportion of interest expense that is claimed as a deduction for farm income tax purposes will be used to establish the amount of interest reduction the farmer will be eligible for under each program.

Application forms for the Alberta Mortgage Interest Reduction Program and the Alberta Small Business and Farm Interest Shielding Program can be obtained from financial institutions.

Information on the Mortgage Interest Reduction Program can be obtained by writing to the Mortgage Assistance Branch of Alberta Housing and Public Works, P.O. Box

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Information On Alberta's Interest Reduction Programs (cont'd)

4020, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 4S8 or by telephoning 422-4400 if the person lives near Edmonton. People who live in the Calgary area can dial 1-800-642-3811 (toll free) while those who live elsewhere in the province should dial 1-800-642-3822 (toll free).

Information on the Small Business and Farm Interest Shielding Program can be obtained by writing to the Alberta Small Business and Farm Interest Shielding Program, 4th Floor, Financial Building, 10621-100 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J OB3. People living near Edmonton can call 422-5522, those living near Calgary can call 261-5235 and those living elsewhere in the province can call 1-800-642-3830 (toll free).

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October 18, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# THE CROW DEBATE AND GRAIN MARKETING

The Crow rate involves more than simply transporting grain to ports for a specific cost. Instead it relates to a total system efficiency for marketing grain, says Norm Thomson, chairman of Alberta Agriculture's planning and research secretariat.

Mr. Thomson believes comparisons of the grain marketing systems in Canada and the United States are part of the research necessary to provide alternatives and improvements to the Canadian system..

A recently released study conducted by the University of Minnesota, U.S.A., indicates the American grain export system is more competitive than commonly believed.

Neilson Conklin of Colorado State University and Reynold Dahl of the University of Minnesota said in their study the percentage of grain trade controlled by the major companies is less than commonly thought. In 1974-75 the four largest grain exporters controlled 49 per cent of the total grain and oilseed exports from the U.S. Since that time, the market share held by the largest firms has declined.

Another indicator of the industry's competitiveness, the study says, is the freedom of entry and exit of grain exporting firms. New firms, both large and small, have entered and exited the grain export business.

"The composition and market shares of firms in the industry have changed significantly in recent years, as have patterns of export elevator ownership. These structural changes indicate competitive forces at work in the U.S. grain export system," the researchers report.

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The Crow Debate And Grain Marketing (cont'd)

The report goes on to mention other aspects which indicate a competitive industry. "Highly liquid futures markets for the major export grains also increase competition in the U.S. grain export system."

Some people have charged that the large grain exporters can make use of inside market information to manipulate price. The researchers found no evidence of such manipulation. They said the pricing efficiency of the U.S. system rests somewhere between the semi-strong and the strong.

Copies of a summary of the researchers' report, "Organization and Pricing Efficiency of the U.S. Grain Export System", are available from N.S. Thomson, Chairman, Planning and Research Secretariat, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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October 18, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## BEEF CATTLE NUTRITION

Farmers who are not feeding a grain and forage ration to their beef cattle should feed a calcium-phosphorous mineral supplement, says Phil Dixon, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Rocky Mountain House.

He points out that feeding either a high grain or a high forage ration to beef cattle can cause problems. Animals that are fed a high proportion of grain with little or no forage will be low in calcium but generally adequate in phosphorous, while those that are fed a high forage ration are likely to be adequate or high in calcium but low in phosphorous. And mature, weathered forage is likely to be very deficient in phosphorous.

Mr. Dixon says a high level of calcium in cattle rations will lower the availability of phosphorous. Hence, a phosphorous deficiency in animals on a high calcium diet can be remedied by either increasing their level of phosphorous consumption or by lowering the level of their calcium intake.

Mr. Dixon stresses that providing the correct calcium-phosphorous ratio is just as important as providing the correct level of calcium and phosphorous in beef cow rations. He reports that tests on beef animals have shown that a calcium-phosphorous ratio of 2:1 (two parts calcium to one part phosphorous) is the ratio to aim for, and that it should not normally be less than 1:1 or greater than 7:1.

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Beef Cattle Nutrition (cont'd)

Mr. Dixon says that cattle on pasture or a grass hay or silage diet need a mineral supplement that contains twice as much calcium as phosphorous and a minimum of 8 per cent phosphorous. This is called a two to one mineral supplement and is usually more palatable than a one to one mineral supplement, which is recommended for cattle on a legume ration. The one to one mineral supplement should contain a minimum of 14 per cent phosphorous. Cattle on a high grain ration should receive a grain mix which contains one per cent ground limestone unless the grain mix contains a commercial protein supplement that has been designed to feed with a grain ration.

A calcium deficiency in mature animals causes stiffness and brittle bones. In young animals it causes rickets.

A phosphorous deficiency in cows is characterized by an irregular neat cycle and a low fertility level. It also causes stiffness in the hindquarters and brittle bones.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CROP YIELDS AND ECONOMICS OF LIMING ACID SOILS

Crop yield increases from liming will depend upon the degree of soil acidity, the kind of crop that is grown and the general growing conditions in the area.

In Alberta average yield increases for wheat, canola and barley have been reported to be between 0.24 to 0.79 tonne per hectare. Barley yield increases have usually been greater than those for wheat and canola, and increases have usually been greater in the gray soil zone than in the dark brown – thin black soil zones of the province.

On the average, alfalfa yields have been increased through liming by 1.10 and 2.07 tonnes per hectare in the dark brown – thin black soil zones and the gray soil zone respectively.

Crop yield responses in the dark brown – thin black soil zones are probably lower than those in the gray soil zone because growing conditions are generally drier in those zones and because many of the liming tests in the dark brown – thin black soil zones were carried out on solonetzic soils. These soils are only acid in the surface horizon and have physical characteristics that can severely restrict yields.

The return of money invested in liming depends upon the size of the yield increase obtained, the values of the crop and the lime and the interest rate charged for borrowed money.

Example calculations, using reasonable values for lime, alfalfa and barley as of August, 1982, are illustrated in two of a number of tables contained in a publication entitled "Crop Yields and Economics of Liming Acid Soils". It also contains sections on several other aspects of soil liming.

Crop Yields and Economics of Liming Acid Soils (Agdex 834-2) can be obtained from your district agriculturist or the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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October 18, 1982

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## CATTLE HOOF TRIMMING

The Department of Continuing Education at Olds College will hold two cattle hoof trimming courses in early November.

The first is a four-day course which will commence on November 2 and the second is a weekend course which will commence on November 5. The four-day course (28 hours) will cost $170 and the weekend course (16 hours) will cost $95.

Both courses will include an explanation of the need for hoof trimming, an outline of the anatomy and physiology of the feet and legs of cattle, information on selecting and preparing hoof nippers and information on handling cattle with and without a trimming table.

Farmers who take either of the courses will have an opportunity to practice trimming "specimen" feet and to work on the feet of live cattle.

The pre-registration deadline is October 27.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from the Department of Continuing Education, Olds College, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO (Telephone:556-8322 or 556-8344).

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October 18, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MARKET DEVELOPMENT BRANCH HEAD APPOINTED

The director of Alberta Agriculture's marketing services, Dennis Glover, has announced the appointment of Dr. D.A. (Tony) Evans to the position of head of the market development branch.

As head of this branch, Dr. Evans will be responsible for working with the private sector on the development and expansion of market opportunities for Alberta's processed food products and agricultural commodities. An important part of his work will be to help producers, processors and departmental divisions to co-ordinate their supply response to market demands and opportunities.

Dr. Evans has a Ph.D. from Cornell University in the United States where he specialized in animal science, statistics and operations research. He also has an extensive international background in the marketing of animal and human food products.

While with a company called Dalgety N.Z. Ltd of New Zealand he was involved in demand studies, environmental economics, field and crop trials, plant breeding, inventory control, consumer surveys, test marketing, food production and processing and by-product animal feeds. Following that he spent two years as president of Alta Lipids Canada Ltd. During the past two years he has been an agricultural and processing consultant in Alberta.

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## ENERGY ENGINEER APPOINTED

Paul Barlott, head of Alberta Agriculture's engineering resource branch, has announced the appointment of John C. Chang to the position of energy engineer.

This is a specialized engineering position related to energy in agriculture. The main duties will include developing, implementing and maintaining energy programs, and providing specialist engineering expertise in the area of energy use in agriculture.

Mr. Chang graduated with a B.Eng. (electrical) with great distinction from McGill University in Montreal in 1969. He continued at McGill, where he did post-graduate work and received a Graduate Diploma in Electrical Engineering in 1973. He then studied agriculture at Macdonald College, graduating with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1976.

From 1976 to 1982, Mr. Chang worked for United Co-operatives of Ontario, Mississauga. His positions included feed and crop specialist, resident engineer (construction) and project engineer. In these positions, he gained considerable experience in the fields of agriculture and engineering, including the coordination of the company's energy conservation program.

Mr. Chang served as a member of the City of Mississauga Task Force on Energy Conservation in 1981. And immediately prior to his present appointment, he worked on the design and implementation of a renewable energy centre for the board of education for the City of Toronto in Ontario.

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# AGRI-NEWS

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October 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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October 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURE MINISTER OPPOSES CANAGREX BILL

Dallas Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture, said in a recent interview that the proposed Canagrex legislation is too restrictive. He claims it would give the federal government "total control of all agricultural products."

We can support an agency that offers assistance to individuals or groups wanting to export agricultural products, but not an agency that has a controlling role, the minister said. He pointed out that Canagrex in its presently proposed form would be another national marketing scheme which goes beyond marketing. It would control production as well.

Mr. Schmidt said "Canagrex seems to take away any freedoms of the individual producer in his ability to market his produce." And Mr. Schmidt disapproves of the all-encompassing powers the bill would grant. "Canagrex," he said, "would be permitted to package, process, store, ship, buy and export agricultural products. It would have total control."

Because Alberta is, always has been and always will be an exporter of agricultural products, it is especially affected by the bill, the minister believes.

And he is not alone in his reservations. "There is no farm organization in the province that has not registered its disagreement with the legislation," Mr. Schmidt said.

Organizations which support the Alberta government in its stand on Canagrex include the Alberta Cattle Commission, Alberta-Canada All Breeds Association, Alberta Canola Growers' Association, Alberta Cattle Feeders Association, Alberta Swine Breeders' Association and the Alberta Pork Producers' Marketing Board.

The Canagrex bill is expected to come before the House of Commons when it resumes sitting in late October.

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October 25, 1982

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## LONG TERM PROSPECTS FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

Addressing Taking Stock, Alberta Agriculture's livestock outlook conference in Red Deer recently Dr. Tom Stout, professor of agricultural economics at Ohio State University in the United States reflected, "Now we are in worldwide recession, worse nearly everywhere than in North America, productivity low and decreasing, debt loads heavy and demanding, and the future no longer benevolent. To you and me this translates into an extended period of slow economic growth and substantial interest rates."

Breed development, utilization of bulls and dairy beef, box beef and restructuring were suggestions made by Dr. Stout as ways to improve the physical efficiency of the livestock industry.

"Restructuring", he explained "means flaking, chunking, reforming – creating a retail cut that looks like sirloin strip, for example, but not made out of sirloin. Like particleboard from the lumber yard. Good portion control, good physical efficiency, good mileage improvement. Also good product differentiation; cheaper than the desirable product it resembles but, not incidentally, more expensive than the capital and labor and beef it's made out of. Improved physical efficiency; advantageously altered pricing opportunities."

He said "A rapidly-spreading innovation in U.S. packing plants is a fast jolt of low-amp, high-voltage electricity to the carcass shortly after stunning and bleeding. It accomplishes in moments the dissipation of muscle energy that otherwise occurs over a longer time in the chillbox. It is said to have a tenderizing effect, but this may be over-sell. What it is also expected to do is improve the way the carcass sets up and its prospects for making the choice

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Long Term Prospects For The North American Livestock Industry (cont'd)

grade. The salespitch claims that electrical stimulation will substitute for the last month of feeding; that, say, 120 or 130 days will do the job that was previously thought to require 150 or 160 days. One month less in the feedlot for the same final product is an impressive improvement in physical efficiency. But that's the salespitch. There's another way to read it: Go out and buy good cattle that are not finished, and pay the seller the good cattle price. Then take them to the plant and make choice carcass beef out of them. And that is an impressive motive, too. But if the claim is really true, then there is another weather vane, shifting slowly: the packer will accomplish in seconds what still takes thirty days in the feedlot. An impressive mileage improvement, and the industry needs that.

"Today needling machines are standard equipment . . . used so that good or or standard beef might be given the tenderness associated with choice beef. Here again, we are talking about an accomplishment in the packing plant that used to be associated exclusively with the feedlot. And the motivation behind it is again found both in physical and pricing opportunities.

"Enzyme baths are tenderizing devices used for the lowest grades of beef, the grades not ordinarily intended for table consumption. But a blade tenderizer and an enzyme bath can make a utility cow good enough for an economy steakhouse that serves its meals in a cafetaria line. In principal, how different is this and its motivations from restructuring? Not a bit. How different are its effects from electrical stimulation? Small."

Dr. Stout concluded, "In these lean times sellers find a pricing opportunity and package it for buyers who buy a physical efficiency. That's good news for any industry that needs to improve its energy conversion ratio, including the red meat industry."

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October 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FEED GRAIN AND PROTEIN OUTLOOK

Giving the outlook on feed grains and protein supplement at Alberta Agriculture's recent Taking Stock Conference in Red Deer, the export manager of James Richardson and Sons of Winnipeg, Dave Champion said that "In the international market, we see very little chance of any major recovery. The weight of surplus supplies and stagnant demand will keep it a buyer's market."

Mr. Champion estimated that world carry-over stocks will be higher than current projections because of higher crop production levels in the U.S.S.R. and lower purchases by them. Any easing of the recession will not affect world grain demand for some time, he said.

Barley is particularly depressed and is not competitive with corn, and Canada's biggest customer, the Russians, are expected to buy more wheat than barley. Mr. Champion said this situation may be favorable to livestock producers in the short term but may cause grain farmers to swing into other crops and tighten supplies in the 1983/84 crop year.

The sheer size of the American corn crop is a depressant, said Mr. Champion, and there is little reason to think that the grain markets are not in for a fairly prolonged period of depressed prices.

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October 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# TOWROPE TRAGEDIES

by Ted Darling
District Agriculturist, Innisfail

In the October issue of an American farm management magazine called "Successful Farming" there is a frightening article about the dangers involved in the use of nylon and polypropylene towropes. Apparently there have been as many as 30 fatalities, a similar number of crippling injuries and hundreds of close calls in the U.S. alone.

The interesting thing is that it is not the rope that fails; it is the chain, clevis or hook that is attached to the rope at either end that fails. These one inch to 1½ inch ropes have a breaking strength of up to 60,000 pounds or many times the strength of most farm chains. "Successful Farming" explains that: "Unlike a cable or chain, towropes stretch, so farmers are tempted, and even instructed, to use the tractor's momentum for more pulling power. From a standing pull, you can develop 70 to 90 per cent of the weight on the drive wheels as tractive effort," explains Nebraska ag engineer Leonard Bashford. "On a 15,000 pound tractor, that's about 11,000 pounds of pull. However, if the tractor hits the end of the rope at 3 mph it develops another 1,000 to 2,000 pounds of pulling power. That total pull approaches the safe limit on some popular-sized farm chains".

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Towrope Tragedies (cont'd)

And it may also be enough to spread a clevis, as was the case in an Iowa fatality, or it may rip off a truck bumper as occurred in a Minnesota incident. However, the real danger is after the break has occurred. At this point the towrope, which can stretch up to 40 per cent or more of its original length, snaps back and hurls whatever it is attached to at speeds of up to 700 miles per hour. In one such case in the United States a length of chain was snapped back through the tractor cab where it killed a 20-year old Nebraska farmer.

Although several law suits that are now in progress may result in warnings to towrope buyers and users, in my opinion the bottom line is to recognize the danger and to act accordingly.

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October 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WINTERING VERSUS PACKAGE BEES

If you live in the Peace River region of Alberta and have been wondering whether you would be further ahead to carry your honey bees over the winter as opposed to buying package bees in the spring, you will be interested in a new publication entitled "An Economic Comparison of Wintering and Package Bees in the Peace River Region".

Prepared by Don MacDonald, provincial apiculturist at Falher and George Monner, regional economist at Fairview, the publication is based on the costs and returns of overwintering bees compared with purchasing package bees for a 2,000 hive apiary in the Peace River Region. In this study the wintering operation provided a return over cash (contribution margin) of $29.62 per hive compared with $16.48 per hive for package bees. However, when depreciation was taken into account the return was $15.52 for overwintered hives compared with $5.71 for packages, representing a difference of $9.81.

The study assumed equal production and returns from each type of operation, but most experienced beekeepers who overwinter their bees claim that the overwintered bees produce significantly more honey than package bees.

Those who collected the data for the publication stress that beekeepers who are considering overwintering their bees would be wise to winter only a portion of them for a year or two, or until they have developed expertise in this area. The publication also points out that overwintering bees necessitates a high level of management skill and skilled help. And that early spring pollen shortages are a problem in many areas of Alberta, which means that the bees must be fed a pollen supplement. This may involve trapping or purchasing pollen, and necessitates advance planning. Another important point brought out in the publi-

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Wintering Versus Package Bees (cont'd)

cation is that the successful overwintering of bees depends to a great extent upon the suitability of the beekeepers' stock. Although suitability may be a problem initially, experience has shown that it improves with time as the bees become selected for their overwintering qualities.

Probably the three main advantages of overwintering honey bees are superior economic returns at present day prices, beekeepers are less dependent on the package bee industry, and the spring is less hectic and worrisome because those who overwinter their bees are not subjected to the pressures of handling them at a time when the weather is often inclement.

Full details on the study, which includes eight tables, a returns schedule and a costs schedule, etc., are contained in "An Economic Comparison of Wintering and Package Bees in the Peace River Region" (821-14). It can be obtained from district agriculturists and from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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October 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SOIL CONSERVATION SOCIETY SEMINAR

November 1 is the deadline for registering for the Alberta Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America's (SCSA) fall seminar on land use programs and policies affecting the agricultural land base, scheduled for the afternoon and evening of November 25.

The program is as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1:30 p.m. | — | Registration |
| 2:00 p.m. | — | Alberta Chapter Executive Committee Report |
| 2:15 p.m. | — | Reeve, County of Strathcona |
| 2:45 p.m. | — | Mr. Ted Nicholson, Director, Oldman Regional Planning Commission |
| 3:15 p.m. | — | Coffee Break |
| 3:45 p.m. | — | Mr. Ray Myroniuk, Manager Territorial Services Local Authorities Board |
| 4:15 p.m. | — | Lawrence Kluthe, Member, Alberta Planning Board, Edmonton |
| 5:00 p.m. | — | Social Hour |
| 6:00 p.m. | — | Dinner |
| 7:00 p.m. | — | Mr. H. Morley Douglas, Assistant Deputy Minister, Alberta Agriculture |
| 7:45 p.m. | — | Adjourn |

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Soil Conservation Society Seminar (cont'd)

The seminar will be held at the Edmonton Inn, 11830 Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton. The registration fee for members and students is $6 for the afternoon session, $14 for the dinner session and $20 for both. The fee for non-members is $8 for the afternoon session, $16 for the dinner session and $22 for both. Add $2 for registration at the hotel. Cheques and money orders should be made payable to the Alberta Chapter, SCSA and mailed to Ron Hicks, 1068 Parker Drive, Sherwood Park, T8A 3Y2.

Anyone who mails in his or her registration fee on or near November 1, is asked to notify Ron Hicks at 427-8985 or John Wuite in Calgary at 261-8346.

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CORRECTION

Agro-Electronics Show, will be held at Westerner Exposition Grounds, Red Deer, Alberta on April 14 - 15; NOT on March 14 - 16 as stated in "Coming Agricultural Events" (October 4, 1982 issue of Agri-News).

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October 25, 1982



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NEW PUBLICATION ON CALF PRECONDITIONING

"Preconditioning — Will it Pay the Producer as Well as the Feeder?" is a new Alberta Agriculture publication that sets out the advantages and disadvantages of preconditioning calves from the points of view of the cow-calf producer and the feeder.

Advantages to the cow-calf producer include increased cow productivity, increased calf sale weights, a price premium and increased pasture carrying capacity. The disadvantages are increased input costs, increased labor and increased risk.

The advantages of preconditioning to the feeder include improved calf health, lower vaccination and warble treatment costs, a reduction in shrinkage, improved production performance and a reduction in risk. The only disadvantage is an increase in the purchase price of the calves. Because feeders recognize the advantages of preconditioned calves, they are usually quite prepared to pay this premium.

Do you know the difference between a preconditioned calf and a preimmunized calf? This is explained in the Alberta Agriculture publication, which also describes the Alberta Certified Preconditioned Feeder Program that includes preconditioning and preimmunizing. It contains numerous illustrations and tables which show such things as the economics of preconditioning, the economics of preconditioned calves in the feedlot, the price differentials between certified and regular calves, the effect of cow productivity and calf prices on the gross returns per cow, the effect of rate of gain, shrink and calf prices on the gross returns per calf, etc.

You can obtain a copy of "Preconditioning — Will it Pay the Producer as Well as the Feeder?" (Agdex 420/662-3), which was prepared by Dr. Terry Church, head of the preventive medicine branch and Dwight Karren, regional beef specialist at Red Deer, from your district agriculturist or from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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Alberta
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October 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## HOME STORAGE FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

If you had a good crop of vegetables this year you may want to build an inexpensive storage area in a corner of your basement.

One of the first things to remember when storing vegetables is that different kinds have different temperature, humidity and ventilation requirements. Hence, if several kinds of vegetables have to be stored in the same area, you will have to work out the best general conditions for all because it will be impossible to provide ideal conditions for each type.

Temperature, the most important factor in maintaining the quality of stored vegetables, can be controlled by a variety of methods based on either mechanical refrigeration or cool outside air.

A nonrefrigerated storage area will depend upon the proper use of outside air to cool the vegetables as quickly as possible after they have been harvested and to maintain a suitable temperature during the storage season. If problems occur when vegetables and fruit are stored together, some of the produce may have to be stored in perforated polyethylene bags and vegetables like onions and potatoes may have to be stored in another location.

A high humidity in the storage area is important to maintain a high quality product. When there is a loss of humidity through mechanical refrigeration or cooling by ventilation, water can be periodically poured on the floor to maintain the appropriate humidity level. However, the floor will need to be wetted more often in the fall than during the winter because refrigeration and ventilation requirements are greater during this period. A slotted duckwalk, in addition to helping to provide a circulation of air under the produce that is being stored, will keep your feet dry when you enter the storage area.

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Home Storage For Fruit And Vegetables (cont'd)

Moisture loss from vegetables like cabbage can be reduced by storing such vegetables in small perforated plastic bags. And a plastic cover over hampers, baskets and boxes will help to prevent shrinkage.

Beets, cabbage, carrots, celery, parsnips, potatoes and rutabagas require cool moist storage conditions. Since root crops lose moisture readily and tend to shrink in storage, it is a good idea to keep them in perforated polyethylene bags or in containers that are covered with polyethylene sheets. Cabbage that has been trimmed and is stored in perforated polyethylene bags will retain its moisture and color better than cabbage that is not stored in this way.

Potatoes should be stored at a temperature of 4.7 ° C to 10 ° C. They tend to become sweet if they are stored at a lower temperature. And since the temperature in the storage area will probably be lower than that which is best suited to potatoes, it may be necessary to build an insulated bin for them that is vented to allow air to enter.

Pumpkins and winter squash should be stored on shelves in a heated basement, and they should be placed so that they do not touch each other. And they should be aired for about two weeks in a dry location at a temperature of 26.5° C to 29.5 ° C before being put into storage.

Onions should be cured for several weeks (until their skins rustle) in a warm, dry, well ventilated place before they are stored for the winter. They will keep for several months in an unused room where the temperature does not drop below freezing. Although they can be stored for a short time in a ventilated storage room, it is best to store them in a separate location.

- (cont'd) -

Home Storage For Fruit And Vegetables (cont'd)

If you are interested in making a simple home storage area or in information on storing vegetables and/or fruit ask your district agriculturist for a copy of the federal publication "Home Storage Room for Fruits and Vegetables" (Agdex 250/60). You can also get a copy from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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Print Media Branch

October 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## TREATS FROM YOUR HALLOWE'EN PUMPKIN

Have you ever roasted pumpkin seeds? You could roast the seeds from your hallowe'en pumpkin and give your family a real treat.

Debbie Brekke, district home economist at Airdrie, recommends the following roasting procedure.

Cut off the top of the pumpkin and then scoop out the seeds, discarding the stringly membranes. Next rinse the seeds in water. After having brought a saucepan of water to the boil, add several tablespoonsful of salt (make a fairly salty solution) and then add the pumpkin seeds. Simmer the seeds for about an hour. Then drain them and spread them on a baking sheet. Put the baking sheet in a 300 ° F oven for about 30 minutes or until the seeds are roasted. Stir them occasionally while they are roasting and add salt and oil if desired.

Here is another idea suggested from Ms. Brekke. When Hallowe'en is over cut your Jack-O-Lantern into pieces, removing any portions that may have been blackened by the candle flame. Then steam or bake the pieces in an oven until they are very tender. Discard the outside peel and mash the pulp for use in pies, cookies, pumpkin bread or pumpkin muffins. If you squeeze or drain away all excess moisture, the pulp can be frozen for later use.

And here is still another pumpkin suggestion from Ms. Brekke. It is a pumpkin milk shake which can be made with a half a cup of pumpkin pie filling. Stir it into a tall glass of cold milk and sprinkle the mixture with a quarter of a teaspoonful of pumpkin pie spice.

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October 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST APPOINTED

J. Wilson Loree, head of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds, has announced the appointment of Douglas E. Barlund to the position of agricultural economist within the financial management section of the branch.

Mr. Barlund graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1973. He has considerable experience in agricultural credit and farm management as a result of the positions he has held with the Farm Credit Corporation in Alberta and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Barlund will be helping the branch to develop materials on farm credit management.

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November 1, 1982

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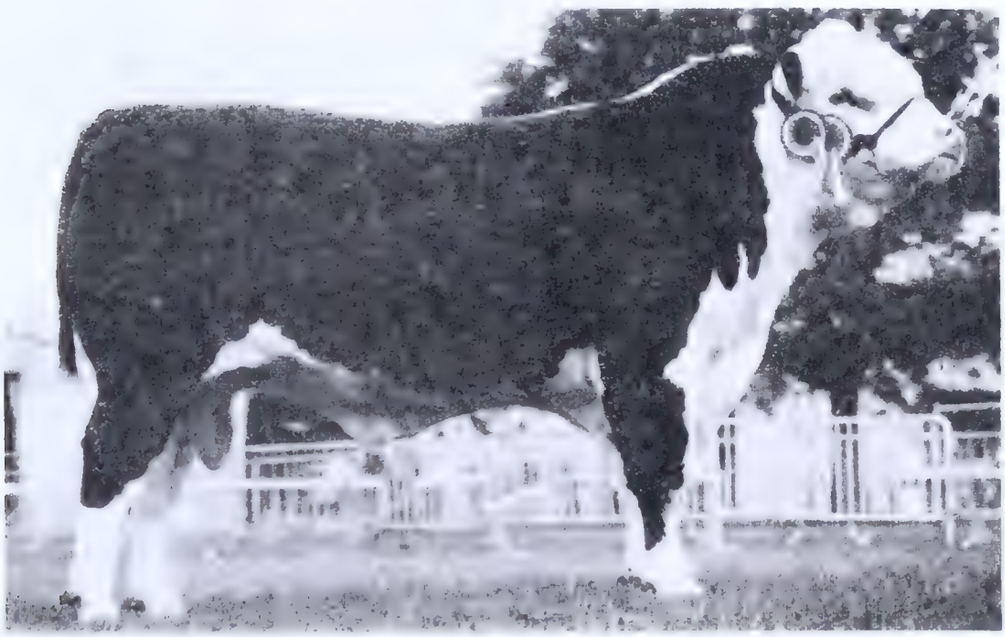
November 1, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# ALBERTA BULL DOES IT AGAIN!



*Remitall Monarch 16 M*

An Alberta-bred polled Hereford bull, Remitall Monarch 16 M has again made showing history in Britain by winning the Bull of the Year award for the second consecutive year.

According to Remitall Monarch's owner, Harry Coates of H.W. Coates Ltd. of Leicestershire, England, this is the first time that a bull has ever won this award twice, and, just as amazing, is the fact that Remitall Monarch won it with the maximum number of points.

To celebrate Remitall Monarch's incredible second Bull of the Year Award, Mr. and Mrs Coates presented Alberta's Agent General in London, Jim McKibben, with a beautifully framed picture of this now world famous Alberta bull. And the picture will be prominently displayed in Alberta House for all visitors to see. Cliff Wulff, executive director of Alberta Agriculture's international marketing group, and Doug Hill, associate trade director, were on hand for the presentation.

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lberta Bull Does It Again! (cont'd)

Last year Remitall Monarch won the supreme championship at the Royal Show England, the Royal Highland Show in Scotland and the Royal Welsh Show in Wales, making m a triple crown winner, before being declared Bull of the Year 1981. This year he again on the supreme championship at the Royal and Highland shows before being declared Bull the Year 1982. He was also declared the Poll Bull of the Year in 1981 and 1982 after ıving won the supreme championship at the National Poll Show.

This fantastic animal (born February 12, 1980) was bred and raised by Louis and an Latimer of the Remitall Cattle Company in Olds. He was sold to Mr. Coates in 1980 r $30,000. His dam, Remitall Gloria, was also almost unbeatable during her show career om 1976 to 1980 when she won nine first prizes and as many championships at the major estern Canadian exhibitions. His sire, Remitall Jamboree, was grand champion at Farmfair 179 in Edmonton and at the Red Deer M.O.E. Show, and his first calf crop has produced veral champions.

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November 1, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PROVINCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO CANADA - ALBERTA ALL-RISK CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM INCREASES

Alberta Agriculture Minister Dallas W. Schmidt has announced that the province will expand its contribution to the Canada -Alberta All-Risk Crop Insurance Program.

The change means the maximum premium producers will now pay for 60 per cent coverage will not exceed 6 per cent. The maximum premium for 70 per cent coverage will be between 7.5 and 8 per cent.

"In reality we're covering the additional premium that some producers had to pay for farming in a high-risk area," said Mr. Schmidt. "This will also reduce the impact the current soil classification system has on the premium structure."

In high risk areas, producers at the 60 per cent coverage level currently pay the first 6 percent and one-half of the remaining premium. The province matches that one-half and pays the administrative costs of the All-Risk Crop Insurance Program. The federal government matches the premium costs.

For example, a farmer in a high-risk area might have a premium as high as 16 per cent. He currently pays 6 per cent plus one-half of the remainder for a total of 11 per cent. The province pays 5 per cent and the federal government pays 16 per cent. With the new contribution the producer in this example would pay 6 per cent, the province would contribute 10 per cent and the federal government would match them with 16 per cent.

"Reducing the maximum premiums for crop insurance will, we hope, improve producer participation in the program, "said Mr. Schmidt. "In particular, it should encourage those in higher risk areas to take out crop insurance instead of taking chances with the weather.

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rovincial Contribution To Canada - Alberta
.ll-Risk Crop Insurance Program Increases (cont'd)

"Considering the recent difficulties we have experienced in some areas with ıconsistent weather, I would suggest this might be a good opportunity for many producers ɔ take a closer look at providing themselves with adequate insurance for 1983 and future ears. All-risk crop insurance premiums are a small price to pay for some excellent protec-on," said the Minister.

For further information on all-risk crop insurance and the new high-risk premium ɛduction program, farmers should contact local offices of the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance orporation.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CANADIAN CATTLE OUTLOOK – AN ALBERTA PERSPECTIVE

"We have to develop a conservative attitude with respect to price prospects".

This statement was made by Bill Gray at Alberta Agriculture's Taking Stock Outlook Conference, which was held in Red Deer recently. Mr. Gray is a research analyst with the Royal Bank of Canada and he thinks that available supplies of slaughter cattle will be sufficient to meet the likely demand for A1, A2 steers in Calgary at prices in the low to mid-$70 dollar range between now and the second quarter of 1983.

He also thinks that seasonal demand and supply considerations should spur an upward rally in prices in the spring but that such a rally will be short-lived.

In forecasting feeder prices, Mr. Gray cautioned cow-calf operators against expecting further price support arising from a reduction in costs of feed grain and interest rates. These two costs have already supported higher feeder prices than those prevailing in the previous year and will continue to do so.

### U.S. Situation

Regarding U.S. cattle, Robert Price of the Western Livestock Marketing Information Project in Denver, Colorado said: "Lower trending interest rates, reduced supplies of feeder cattle, and relatively inexpensive grain are all favorable factors for feeder cattle prices". However, he added "There are two major negative forces currently at work regarding fed cattle price prospects in the U.S. The lagging rebound in the economy weighs heavily on the demand for beef, and the fed cattle industry is developing a potential backlog of over-finished cattle which it can ill afford at a time when more and more cattle will be coming on show lists".

In reviewing the 1982 livestock markets, Mr. Price suggested that dismal equity positions of many cow-calf operators coupled with extremely disappointing cattle prices

- (cont'd) -

Canadian Cattle Outlook – An Alberta Perspective (cont'd)

during the winter quarter resulted in increased cow and heifer slaughter and substantially more heifers placed in feedlots. "There appears to be little doubt", he said "that U.S. cattle producers have made radical adjustments in their future plans".

Mr. Price also pointed out that low pork production, and little if any increases in poultry are positive signs for fed cattle price prospects. He added, "If cattle feeders can head off a possible backlog and regain a current stance, the prospects for fed cattle later in 1982 and in the early part of 1983 may still be quite favorable".

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WESTERN HOG OUTLOOK

"Continued good hog prices and margins and low hog numbers can be expected by Canadian hog producers", according to Greg Whalley, economist, Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board, Edmonton.

Mr. Whalley made this statement at Taking Stock, Alberta Agriculture's livestock outlook conference which was held in Red Deer, recently. He also said that "Pork producers would have to receive about $160.00/cwt today in order to give them the same magnitude of profits they received in September of 1973." And he continued by saying, "The problem stems from poor consumer demand. But just how high are retail pork prices? "Relatively speaking pork is less expensive to the average worker now than in 1973.

"Canadian hog numbers will continue to contract, but certainly not to the extent of the U.S. contraction," Mr. Whalley said. And he added, "While this indicates moderate cut-backs in production, we must bear in mind that the co-existence of large grain stocks and good margins in hog production could result in a very rapid turn-around in production. Hog numbers, however, will still be low for some time yet."

Mr. Whalley suggested that an abundance of cheap food this fall and next spring could, in fact, make hog production very profitable indeed, but of course this sets the stage for another round of rebuilding and the accompanying oversupply and low prices.

For the remainder of 1982 and the first quarter of 1983, Mr. Whalley expects hog prices to fall in the low to mid $90/cwt range.

### U.S. Situation

Glenn Grimes, professor of agricultural economics at the University of Missouri-Columbia, U.S.A., said he expected hog marketings for the fourth quarter to be 15 to 18 per

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estern Hog Outlook (cont'd)

nt below those recorded in 1981. He said this larger reduction in marketings than in arket hog inventories of the 60 to 180-pound weight category compared with 1981 is pported by slaughter levels during September.

When and at what rate the American breeding herd will be increased continues be one of the most asked questions about the hog situation, Mr. Grimes said. He continued ur gilt data indicate a slightly larger than normal retention in June and July, but a slightly ver than normal retention in August and during the first three weeks of September." He pects some growth in the breeding herd this fall but doubts that the herd will be any larger December 1, 1982 than it was on December 1, 1981.

He said that farrowing intentions for the September-November quarter are orted to be 10 per cent less than last year, and that intention for the December-February arter are reported to be 4 per cent less than a year earlier. "I believe", he said, "a reduction r 10 per cent for the September-November quarter has a high probability of occurring but eve the December-February quarter farrow may be near a year earlier.

"With demand at the 1982 level, we would expect prices in the second quarter 1983 with a 10 per cent reduction in marketings to be in the upper $50's or stronger. For third quarter of 1983, a long-range forecast is for prices to be in the U.S. $50's to low r's, with marketings at the 1982 level, and demand equal to or stronger than 1982."

Mr. Grimes expects American feeder pig prices to continue at record or near ord levels during the next six months.

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November 1, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# LIVESTOCK AND THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY

by Andy Birch
District Agricultrist, Stettler

Forbearance, caution, planning and adaptation are key elements in the message that the president of Lakeside Farm Industries Ltd., Brooks, Alberta, delivered at Alberta Agriculture's recent Taking Stock Conference in Red Deer.

Garnet Altwasser said that philosophically what we are experiencing today is nothing new in that our ancestors, society and civilization have faced the same social and economic forces. He made reference to economic cycles, their repetitiveness and their predictability. And he pointed out that if you believe in those cycles, the current senario of high interest rates, inflation and recession were predictable. The so called "K" cycle (Kondratieff) indicates we are in for a long period of economic decline, with lowering interest rates. As a consequence, Mr. Altwasser predicted livestock markets will be erratic and unpredictable and will be accompanied by some violent and unforeseen swings.

He advised producers to watch for and take advantage of market opportunities. And he emphasized that intelligent marketing can bring greater economic returns than efficient production. In other words: buy and sell right. Mr. Altwasser also believes that hedging commodities on futures markets should be a part of the game plan.

Rising, burdensome taxes are a looming threat to the industry as municipal governments struggle for additional resources to meet onerous demands, he said, and he warned the audience that unless managers respond appropriately to changing circumstances by preparing, planning and anticipating change, they will not survive. The game plan is to survive — reduce debts to as low a level as possible, cut out waste and become more efficient.

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November 1, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ANNUAL BEEF MARKETING SEMINAR – PONOKA

"Meeting the Challenges of the Times" will be the main feature of the 5th annual beef marketing seminar in Ponoka on November 19, 1982.

Every year a new planning meeting is organized with cattle producers to identify areas of concern in the beef industry. This year the producers had concerns about profitability during uncertain times and rapidly changing demand.

The input cost of beef production will be outlined by Dwayne Couldwell, regional marketing economist at Airdrie. He spent a number of years as a grain buyer with Cargill Grain before joining Alberta Agriculture and will cover the grain supplies and price outlook for the coming year.

Rapidly changing consumer eating habits and the companies advertising meat products have triggered concern on the part of producers about the market share of beef. Alberta Cattle Commission will cover this subject with a number of speakers. Areas that will be discussed will include Consumer Demands by Kathy Keeler, Beef Information Centre; Beef Promotion by Rob Mitchell, Pincher Creek; Marketing Options (finished beef, boxed beef, export beef) by Sten Berg, Ardrossan; and Beef Supplies and Projected Prices by Chris Mills, manager, Alberta Cattle Commission.

Since both backgrounder and finished cattle are dependent upon a large amount of borrowed capital, the changing interest rate has been of concern from the point of view of cattle profitability. In this connection, Ed Baskier, assistant manager of agriculture, national Toronto Dominion Bank will outline projections on interest rates, cash flow requirements,

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Annual Beef Marketing Seminar — Ponoka (cont'd)

bank lending trends and the current bank policy on demand loans. He will also discuss the way the general economic climate affects the bank's lending policy.

A panel of cattle producers, made up of Lawrence Johnson of Wetaskiwin, Jack Olson of Red Deer, Bill Hartell of Strathmore and Pat Fisher also of Strathmore, will talk about the various marketing techniques they use to maximize producer returns on the sale of cattle.

Sandy Bennett, a cow-calf producer in the Ponoka area, will discuss methods of marketing calves in the fall. These will include preconditioning, direct sales, auction markets and lot sales.

The seminar will finish with a discussion on "What are the Buyer's Criteria in Buying Cattle" by Ralph Vold of Vold Jones Vold Auction Market, Ponoka. It will be held in the Ponoka community and recreation centre, 5013 - 46 Avenue, on November 19. Registration will be at 8:30 a.m. The registration fee will be $20 per person or $30 per couple (husband and wife).

Rick Williams, district agriculturist at Ponoka, asks those who plan to attend the seminar to contact the district office in Camrose, Lacombe, Ponoka, Rimbey or Wetaskiwin. November 17 is the deadline for preregistering.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ONE-DAY SEMINARS ON FARM FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SCHEDULED

Agricultural Management — A Closer Look is the theme of four one-day seminars to be held on farm financial management at four locations in rural Alberta.

The seminars will focus on a closer look into farm financial management by concentrating on three areas: Risk Management, Market Management and Financial Management. Economic recovery, the cost of money, farm business approaches, financial procedures, etc. will be the topics dealt with by resource personnel from the accounting sector, financial institutions (banks) and the farm operator.

Each seminar will start at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m. and will consist of presentations with 30 per cent of the time being set aside for audience participation in question and answer periods.

Locations and dates for the seminars are:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Grande Prairie (Golden Inn) | — | November 23 |
| Innisfail (Country Lodge) | — | November 24 |
| Camrose (Norseman Inn) | — | November 30 |
| Westlock (Westlock Inn) | — | December 1 |

The resource people and speakers who will appear at one or more of the seminars will be: Patrick Moncrieffe, senior manager, Agricultural Department, Bank of Montreal (Toronto); Pat Killoran, regional sales manager, Bank of Nova Scotia (Calgary); John Prentice, Standard Hog Farms Inc, (Calmar). A speaker to be announced, Agricultural Department, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (Calgary); Don Hoover, partner in charge of consulting practice, Deloitte Haskins & Sells (Edmonton); Darrell Toma, consultant, Deloitte Haskins & Sells (Edmonton).

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One-Day Seminars On Farm Financial Management Scheduled (cont'd)

The seminars are being sponsored by: Alberta Agriculture, the Bank of Montreal, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Alberta Treasury Branches and IST-Canfarm Inc. and co-ordinated by the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA) Edmonton.

The cost of these one-day seminars is $40 per person, $20 per spouse and $20 per guest(s).

Brochures on the seminars can be obtained from any of the sponsors listed above or from REDA at 451-5959.

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November 1, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## GRAIN AND OILSEED MARKETING SEMINAR

Keeping your Options Open — Grain and Oilseed Marketing is the name of a free seminar, sponsored by Alberta Agriculture's Leduc district office, that will be held in Holburn Hall, (near Stony Plain) on November 16 and in the county building in Leduc on November 17.

The agenda will be as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | — | Registration and Coffee |
| 1:00 p.m. - 2.00 p.m. | — | Situation and Outlook for Canadian Feed Grains, Board Grains and Oilseeds<br>- Les Lyster, Grain Marketing Economist, Alberta Agriculture |
| 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. | — | The ABC's of Futures Marketing<br>- Dwayne Couldwell, Regional Economist, Alberta Agriculture |
| 3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. | — | Coffee Break |
| 3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. | — | "How I Use the Futures Market and Producer Cars to Improve Cash Flow"<br>- Patrick McArthy, Farmer and Grain Buyer, Westland Grain |

Further information can be obtained from the district office in Stony Plain or Leduc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SNOW MOLD CONTROL BEGINS BEFORE FREEZE-UP

Crop Protection Newsletter, Alberta Agriculture

The most effective way to control snow mold is to apply a suitable fungicide to the grass just before the arrival of a permanent snow cover.

One of the few remaining registered uses for mercury-containing fungicides pertains to snow mold control. Mercuric chloride (corrosive sublimate, bichloride of mercury), mercurouschloride (calomel) and organic mercury compounds (e.g., phenyl mercuric acetate) are effective against all of the common snow mold pathogens which occur in Alberta. Benomyl, chlorothalonil and chloroneb are registered for the control of specific types of snow mold and do not have as wide a spectrum as the mercurial fungicides. If you are in doubt about the type of snow mold you are dealing with, an organic or inorganic mercury fungicide may be your best choice. When using a mercurial fungicide wear protective clothing and be careful not to allow it to come in contact with your skin. Since some forms of mercury are corrosive to metal, sprayers should be thoroughly washed after use.

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November 1, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# FALL GARDEN SANITATION CONTROLS DISEASES

Alberta Horticulturist, Alberta Agriculture

Fall is the time to start a disease control program for next year's garden. Since many plant diseases and insect pests survive the winter on plant refuse, future problems can be greatly reduced if the debris is removed before winter sets in.

Among the vegetable diseases that can be reduced with good fall sanitation are white and grey mold, bacterial soft rot, powdery mildew, root rot and other leaf spots and blights. Fireblight, powdery mildew, cane blight and leaf spots in tree and bush fruits can also be controlled by a good sanitation program. Removal of plant debris is especially important in a small garden where diseases are more likely to build up because crop rotations are either not feasible or are limited.

Plant debris that is diseased or infested with insects should not be used as compost material, and compost material should not be applied to the garden until all the plant debris has completely decomposed. This precaution is intended to avoid the spread of disease.

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November 1, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ADC AGRIBUSINESS STAFF APPOINTMENTS

J. Harold Hanna, chairman and managing director of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), has announced the appointments of Winston Williams and David Wiebe to the positions of agribusiness analysts.

Mr. Williams brings to his new position a considerable amount of experience in the agricultural credit field. He holds a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan, and he was employed by the Jamaica Development Fund from 1973-1981. He recently worked for the Jamaican Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr. Wiebe is currently employed by ADC as assistant manager of loan administration, where he is responsible for the administration of delinquent guaranteed and direct loans. He has a farming background and has been employed as a grain buyer, however, his principal employment has been centred in the credit union field in Eastern Canada. He moved to Alberta in 1980, when his family purchased a retail book store business in Camrose, and he commenced employment with ADC in 1981.

The addition of Messrs. Williams and Wiebe to the agribusiness section of ADC is a reflection of the corporation's continuing efforts to improve service to prospective clients in the lending activity area.

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November 1, 1982

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## ADC APPOINTS NEW LOANS OFFICER AT PEACE RIVER

Frank Blush, the Agricultural Development Corporation's (ADC) regional manager for the Peace River region, has announced the appointment of Dave Beckman to the position of loans officer in the Peace River district office.

Mr. Beckman grew up on a mixed farm in the Edberg district south of Camrose. He attended high school there and in Red Deer before enrolling in the University of Alberta. He graduated from the latter in 1970 with a B.Sc (agriculture), having specialized in animal science.

Following graduation, he joined Alberta Agriculture's extension division as a district agriculturist and received his training in the Lamont district office. He later worked as a district agriculturist in St. Paul, Wetaskiwin and Fairview.

During the periods 1975-77 and 1979-81, Mr. Beckman was employed by the Canadian International Development Agency in the capacity of livestock and pasture officer on a rural development project in Lesotho, Africa. Later he worked for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in an advisory capacity to the Ministry of Agriculture in Mozambique, Africa.

Mr. Beckman's extensive experience will provide a valuable addition to ADC's lending staff in the Peace River office. He is married and has three children.

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# AGRI-NEWS

November 8, 1982

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# THE OUTLOOK FOR INTEREST RATES AND THE EXCHANGE RATE

Interest rates should come down over the next year, but slowly, and the exchange rate should remain stable at just above U.S. 80¢ .

These predictions were made by Dr. Tom Powrie, professor of economics at the University of Alberta, in a recent address he gave at Alberta Agriculture's Taking Stock Conference in Red Deer.

He said the government sector is putting a heavy strain on interest rates and will continue to do so because the federal deficit of well over $20 billion will be far the largest single demand for loans. Provinces get less publicity, but their deficits and resulting borrowings will increase because their tax revenues are depressed these days. Even the Province of Alberta, although still running a surplus if one counts additions to the Heritage Fund, is running a smaller surplus and thus providing a smaller contribution to the supply of loanable funds in Canada.

Regarding the business sector, Dr. Powrie reported that corporate profits are sharply down, and that corporate profits are a major source of savings. They are a form of saving that is typically not loaned out. Instead, they are normally reinvested in the company that earns them. And, the more internal savings it has, the less the company needs to borrow externally, and the less upward pressure it puts on interest rates. For this reason, high corporate profits would help to ease interest rates, and the low profits now available are another reason for interest rates to stay high.

However, Dr Powrie pointed out that although business savings are down, there is also a reduced demand for financing. He said in today's depressed economy, all sorts of projects have been postponed or cancelled or have not been planned in the first place, and that the

(cont'd)

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The Outlook For Interest Rates And The Exchange Rate (cont'd)

demand for financing for them has disappeared. He advised this is the only item in the list so far that puts downward pressure on interest rates, even if for an unfortunate reason.

So far, on balance, the list suggests no change in interest rates because increased government borrowing will be roughly offset by reduced business borrowing. However, there are two powerful influences on Canadian interest rates that are still to be reckoned with, they are inflation and American interest rates.

Dr. Powrie says interest rates are bound to stay higher than the rate of inflation because lenders will insist on some real return. Interest rates did fall below the rate of inflation in Canada sometimes in the 1970's, but that seems very unlikely to happen again. Interest rates will stay several percentage points above the rate of inflation. However, he expects some modest slowing of inflation, which will permit some modest fall in interest rates over the next year or so.

Regarding the exchange rate, Dr. Powrie says the central bank has recently seemed to try for a level of interest rates that would keep the Canadian dollar near U.S. 80 ¢ To do so, they have had to follow U.S. interest rates fairly closely and to keep the Canada-U.S differential neither too large nor too small.

Dr. Powrie thinks the exchange rate is a good "place to stand" in the fight against inflation . He says it is a very important price to the Canadian economy, and a weakening of it would raise the cost of all imported goods and services in Canadian dollars. A stable exchange rate will also tie our prices more closely to those in the U.S., a desirably anti-inflationary step when the U.S. seems to be having more success than we are in cooling inflation.

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## PROJECT COORDINATOR APPOINTED IN THE AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

Dr. Bill Ballantyne, head of Alberta Agriculture's agricultural processing development branch, has announced the appointment of Ross Lipsit to the position of project co-ordinator in the project development section.

Mr. Lipsit will be responsible for encouraging the development of processed food capability in the province. He will place emphasis on vegetable and specialty crop processing as well as the manufacture of complex food items.

Mr. Lipsit graduated with a B. Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Guelph in Ontario. He also has an M. S. (horticulture) from Michigan State University, U.S.A.

Prior to joining Alberta Agriculture, he worked with manufacturers of agricultural chemicals. He joins the project development section after a number of years with Alberta Agriculture during which time he provided marketing services to the province's special crops sector.

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## ALBERTA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE SEMINAR

"Environmental Contaminants — Scientific Assessment of Impact on Man and the Environment" will be the theme of an Alberta Environmental Centre seminar that will be held in the main conference room at the centre on November 24.

'The talk will deal with the federal perspective of environmental toxicology and exposure assessment and its relevance to chemicals of concern in Alberta. And it will be given by Dr. George Becking who is chief of the environmental and occupational toxicology division of Health and Welfare Canada in Ottawa.

Further information on the seminar can be obtained from Dr. S. Ramamoorthy, Bag 4000, Vegreville, Alberta, T0B 4L0 (Telephone: 632-6767).

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## GRAIN MARKETING AND INFORMATION MEETING SCHEDULED

A Grain Transportation and Marketing Information Meeting will be held in the Byemoor Community Hall on November 18 from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Topics will include:

- An Overview of the Gilson Report
- Alberta Feed Barley Future's Market
- Feed Grain Marketing and the Private Grain Trade
- Can Orderly Marketing Meet the Challenges of the 80's?
- Improving the Open Market System

The registration fee will be $10 per person and will include lunch. Pre-registration is requested so that arrangements can be made for lunch.

Additional information can be obtained from Andy Birch, district agriculturist, at Stettler — Telephone: 742-4481.

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## CANOLA MARKETING SEMINARS

What is the price of canola likely to be in the coming year? What factors influence canola prices? What is the current situation in the canola crushing industry? What are the alternatives I have for delivering and pricing canola? And what are my legal rights when I sell canola to a buyer?

These questions and others will be discussed in seven one-day seminars jointly sponsored by the Alberta Canola Association and Alberta Agriculture, which will be held at various locations across the province. The general outline of the seminars will be as follows:

- Factors Influencing Canola Prices
- Market Outlook For Canola
- Current Situation in the Crushing Industry
- A Producer's Legal Rights When He Sells Grain
- Pricing and Delivery Alternatives for Canola

The Seminars will be held at -:

| | |
|---|---|
| The Castor Community Hall, Castor | November 15 |
| The Westlock Inn, Westlock | November 18 |
| The Log Cabin, Falher | November 22 |
| The Chateau Dining Hall, Vegreville | November 25 |
| The Christian Education Center, Innisfail | November 29 |
| The Moose Hall, Taber | November 30 |
| The Wheatland County Inn, Strathmore | December 1 |

The Seminars will begin at 9:30 a.m. and a registration fee will be charged at the door. For more information contact your local Alberta Canola Growers Association director, your district agriculturist or your regional farm economist.

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## IN DEPTH GRAIN MARKETING SEMINAR

Grain Marketing Into the 1980's – An Overview of the System. That is the theme of a seminar that will be held at the community hall in Rimby on December 2.

According to Gordon Bacon, district agriculturist at Rimby, the seminar has been organized to provide participants with an indepth understanding of the grain marketing industry and its complex structure. He says "We are fortunate to have the top people who represent the key elements in the marketing structure for grain in Western Canada on our program".

Following is a list of the speakers and their topics:

Dr. H. F. Bjarnason, executive director, Planning Directorate, Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) who will discuss the responsibilities of the CWB and its commitments in world markets.

A senior member of the inspection staff of the Canadian Grain Commission in Winnipeg, Manitoba, will outline the legislation that governs the grain industry and the rules that protect and affect farmers.

Don Bousquet, general manager of the Farm Market Network, Inc., Winnipeg, Manitoba, will discuss Canada's role in the international market place for cereals and oilseeds as well as the world yield outlook and the supply and demand for competitive crops. And he will try to interpret what the signals are saying.

Marvin Nakonechny, district agriculturist at Camrose, will discuss the implications of grain marketing at the producer level and explain where to get up-to-date information and how to interpret it.

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In Depth Grain Marketing Seminar (cont'd)

After lunch there will be a panel discussion on the quota system. Dr. Bjarnason will explain the present system, and Bob Klassen, a farmer from Ferintosh, will present an alternative to the present system. There will be other discussion periods during the day.

Since the number of participants is limited to 200, the deadline for advance registration will be November 26. The fee, which will include lunch, will be $15 per individual and $25 per couple (husband and wife).

To pre-register or to obtain additional information on the seminar, please contact the district office in Camrose (672-4411), Ponoka (783-4476), Wetaskiwin (352-1240) or Rimby (824-2201)

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## SHEEP AND LAMB OUTLOOK

Alberta lamb prices are expected to decline to seasonal lows in the mid to upper $50-range during the fourth quarter of this year and then to begin to climb again as supplies diminish prior to the 1983 lamb crop.

In making this prediction, Deb Thorsen, marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, said that slaughter volumes during the final quarter of this year are expected to remain considerably above those of the same period last year, and that heavy runs usually occur in September, October and November.

According to Ms. Thorsen, lamb prices at the Lambco plant in Innisfail are traditionally higher than prices at the Edmonton stockyards because the former purchases stock that is consistent in quality and in number delivered. She says that Lambco's prices averaged $62.73 to $64.20 from July through September, which was only 22¢ to $2.15 below the year ago level.

Total sheep and lamb numbers in Alberta were 205,000 head on July 1 of this year, which represents a 4 per cent increase compared with the same period a year ago. Ms. Thorsen reports that the number of sheep one year and older increased to 106,000 head this year compared with 95,800 head last year, or by 11 per cent. However, lamb numbers declined by 2 per cent during this period, indicating a smaller lamb crop than in 1981. Ms. Thorsen says the increase in sheep numbers suggests that more ewes are being held on farms because of an increase in breeding intentions.

The Canadian sheep and lamb inventory as of July 1, 1982 totalled 816,900 head, up by 3 per cent compared with 1981. This increase, says Ms. Thorsen, was the result of a 5 and one per cent increase in inventories in eastern and western Canada respectively. While the number of lambs one year and under declined by one per cent, the number of sheep one year and older increased by 7 per cent from last year.

***The above article is based on information that was available at the end of September, 1982.***

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## ALBERTA HOG PRICES AND SUPPLIES

First quarter 1983 Alberta hog prices are expected to range between $84 and $87 per hundredweight and to be in the low $80 range after that.

This is the opinion of Gordon Herrington, livestock economist with Alberta Agriculture market analysis branch, who says that Canadian hog production intentions, apart from the overriding influence of U.S. production trends, will be substantially influenced by farmers' perception of the grain market outlook and the availability of feed. He also says that all indications point to a plentiful supply of feed grain and low grain prices for the foreseeable future. Hence, he expects hog output declines, which have been a feature of production during 1982, to abate in the fourth quarter of this year, and he expects the beginning of an expansionary hog production phase to become evident in the early part of 1983. Although regional output differences will remain, farm economic factors in general are becoming increasingly more favourable for an expansion in the hog inventory.

U. S. Intentions

As indicated in the United States Department of Agriculture's, September 1, Ten State Hog Report intentions are for fourth quarter 1982 and early 1983 marketings to run 12 per cent below what they were a year earlier. The same report also indicates that December 1982 - Feburary 1983 farrowing intentions will be only 4 per cent below farrowings in the same period a year earlier.

Mr. Herrington reports that assuming unchanged consumption trends, prices in the U. S. Seven Markets should be in the US$59-$60 per hundredweight range (Index 100 equivalent: CDN$91-$92.50) for the fourth quarter and remain in this price range during the first half of 1983. However, if herd expansion should occur at a faster rate than anticipated, price expectations should be lower, Mr. Herrington says. After that they would move still lower.

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## ALBERTA CATTLE PRICES AND SUPPLY

"Fed cattle prices will improve from the low level that was recorded in mid October, but supply prospects, including possible U.S. imports, will preclude their going much above $72 per hundredweight for A1 and A2 steers in Calgary until the spring of 1983."

This assessment was made by Gordon Herrington who is a livestock economist with Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch. He says that although Canadian slaughter during the whole of this year has been above that of 1981, the major portion of the increase has been in the slaughter of cows and heifers. Consequently, the pool of animals available for feeding and slaughter is not likely to be reduced. And Mr. Herrington does not think there will be a reduction in cattle slaughter numbers below the level that would trigger a significant price change even if the present heavy slaughter is not sustained for much longer.

"Another factor against a upward shift in fed cattle prices in the near future", says Mr. Herrington, "is the traditional falling off of demand that normally takes place during the winter".

Next spring and early summer's demand for beef should increase fed cattle prices, but Mr. Herrington says the level of that demand will very much depend upon the general economic outlook at the time. He also says that, on the basis of current indications, it is unlikely that consumer demand and available beef supplies will support fed cattle prices above the April to June levels of this year. And the age of the cattle and the timing of their finishing and slaughter will be critical from the point of view of maximizing prices during this relatively short-lived period of higher prices.

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## Alberta Cattle Prices and Supply

### Feeder Demand

Mr. Herrington expects the supply and quality of feed available for feeding cattle to increase buyer interest in feeders, even though short-keep feeder prices will be closely tied to fed cattle prices. He says fed cattle prices during the spring and summer of 1983 will probably somewhat dampen buyer price offers for this year's calf crop, but that buyer needs will be strong. This factor alone could well generate premium prices of above $80 per hundred weight for steer calves and reduce the discount on heifer calves.

### U.S. Supply Situation

Mr. Herrington believes that U.S. fed cattle prices will only improve marginally this winter, that the relatively abundant short-term supply of cattle in that country will continue to dominate North American fed cattle prices, and that little help will be afforded to Canadian fed cattle prices even if the American economy improves in early 1983.

*The above article is based on information that was available at the end of September, 1982.*

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November 8, 1982

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## THE INTERNATIONAL MEAT TRADE SITUATION

Canada's international trade in livestock is confined to the "regional bloc" under the leadership of the U.S., said Dr. Joe Richter, professor of economics at the university of Alberta. Speaking at the Taking Stock Conference in Red Deer recently, he said that the international meat trade, unlike the grain trade, is regionalized and much less globally inter-dependent.

He pointed out that the trend during the 1970's was towards the development of these large regionalized trading blocs with clearly protectionist attitudes. He said that meat output within these regional groupings has been rising and that the preference will be for countries to become self-sufficient in their meat production and to import feedstuffs if the need arises.

Dr. Richter concluded by saying that the industry will have to cope with negative factors in a trade environment which has little opportunity for liberalization and expansion.

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November 8, 1982

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## ADC APPOINTS NEW LOANS OFFICERS IN PEACE REGION

Frank Blush, the Agricultural Development Corporation's regional manager for the Fairview region, has announced the appointments of Bill Olive and Glen Sveinunggaard as loans officers in the Falher and Fairview district office respectively.

Mr. Olive was born and raised in Edmonton. He attended high school there and in Calgary before enrolling in the business administration program at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. He graduated in 1968. And from 1967-68 he was employed as the northern Alberta representative for Laurentide Financial Corporation out of Edmonton.

From 1968-78 he worked for North West Feeds in Edmonton as general manager. And he completed his third year of the registered in industrial accounting program through the University of Alberta.

Following this Mr. Olive served as general manager of Cormie Ranches Ltd., Tomahawk, Alberta, until 1981. From 1981-82, he was employed as general manager for Seisform Drilling (1957) Ltd. in Wetaskiwin.

During the course of his working career, he has visited various farming enterprises throughout Canada, the mid-western U.S., Mexico and South America . His extensive agricultural-related experience will be of considerable benefit when he is dealing with the financial requirements of farmers and agribusinesses in the Falher area.

Mr. Olive is single and will be making his home in the Falher district.

Mr. Sveinunggaard was raised on a grain farm near Wanham and attended high school there and in Grande Prairie. He subsequently enrolled in the commerce program at the Grande Prairie regional college for a one-year term.

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ADC Appoints New Loans Officers In Peace Region (Cont'd)

He graduated from the University of Alberta with a B. Sc. (agriculture) in 1982, having specialized in agricultural economics.

Mr. Sveinunggaard's familiarity with agriculture in the Peace River area will be a definite asset in his new position.

He is single and will be making his home in Fairview.

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# AGRI-NEWS

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November 19, 1982

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October 15, 1982

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## FOUR ALBERTA FIRMS RECEIVE GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Two northern Alberta and two southern Alberta plants will receive financial assistance under the Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance.

The Fort Saskatchewan Bakery Ltd. will receive $16,333 to purchase a new oven, a mixer and other baking equipment. The estimated capital cost of the modernization is $82,000.

Pentex Holdings Ltd., operating as H & M Meats, will receive $25,500 to modernize its packing plant in Grande Prairie. After modernization the plant hopes to increase its sausage production and its sale of graded beef sides. The total cost of the project is expected to be $170,000.

Trans Canada Freezers Ltd. and Canada Packers Inc. (York Farms Division) will receive a total of $157,104 to modernize and expand their vegetable processing plant in Lethbridge. The financial assistance will be used to construct a building to house expanded processing lines and to install new refrigeration conveyor lines. Total cost of the project is estimated to be $873,000.

Duchess Meat Processors Ltd. will receive $11,463 to modernize and expand its abattoir, which is located about three kilometres north of Duchess. The modernization and expansion will increase both the hog-killing and cooling capacity of the facility, and it will include the addition of a sausage kitchen. Total cost of the project will be approximately $57,000.

The Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance is cost-shared and jointly administered by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture.

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October 15, 1982

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## WHEAT SITUATION

In the opinion of Les Lyster, grain marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture, final payments for the top grades of red spring wheat and durum wheat will be meagre at best for the 1982-83 Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) pool accounts.

He also says that no final payment is expected for Canada Feed Wheat because current CWB asking prices are well below the CWB's initial payment. In fact, cross subsidization from the sales of higher grade wheat will occur to cover the deficit on Canada Feed Wheat, but cross subsidization cannot occur between pool accounts.

Alberta's 1982 wheat crop is currently estimated to be 5.84 million tonnes or 6 per cent below the record 1981 crop. This year's wheat acreage, estimated at 6.85 million acres, was 2 per cent above the province's 1981 acreage, and the largest since 1950. And at the present time Alberta's average wheat yield is estimated at 31.3 bushels per acre, which would be 2.8 bushels per acre below the province's record 1981 yield.

Mr. Lyster says that Statistics Canada's September estimates put the Canadain wheat crop at 26.87 million tonnes or 8 per cent above the record 1981 crop and made it the second successive record wheat crop. However, widespread frost and adverse harvesting weather have reduced its quaility, and it is currently expected that only about 60 per cent of the wheat will be eligible for the top two grades. On the other hand, since virtually all of Canada's carry-over stocks were top quality wheat, the total mix of wheat supplies available in 1982-83 should be such that they do not cause any particular marketing problems.

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Wheat Situation (cont'd)

World Situation

According to Mr. Lyster, world wheat production for 1982-83 is expected to be 453 million tonnes, which would be virtually identical with that recorded in 1981-82. He says that except for Australia, wheat production in each of the major exporting countries is at or near record levels, and that world wheat carryover stocks for 1982-83 are estimated to be 91 million tonnes, which would be up by 9 per cent compared with 1981-82, and the highest since 1978-79. Mr. Lyster believes that world wheat prices will remain weak for the rest of the 1982-83 crop year, and he expects them to move lower between now and the summer of 1983.

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October 15, 1982

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## FEED GRAIN PRICE AND SUPPLY SITUATION

The final payment from the 1982-83 Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) feed barley pool account is expected to be small at best and probably non-existent. And country elevator bids for non-board feed barley are expected to be mainly in the $85 per tonne range by the spring of 1983.

Les Lyster, grains marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture, expects a small recovery in world feed grain prices by the summer of 1983, but he is not optimistic about a final payment from the 1982 - 83 CWB feed barley pool account.

Regarding non-board barley prices, Mr. Lyster thinks they have bottomed out for the current crop year, and that they will remain generally depressed until at least next spring.

Canada's 1982 barley crop is estimated at 13.6 million tonnes, which represents a decline of only one per cent from the record 1981 barley crop. Mr Lyster says total Canadian barley supplies for 1982-83 are estimated to be a record 17.7 million tonnes, up by 4 per cent from the previous year's level. "We expect barley exports, including barley products," say Mr. Lyster "to be around 5.5 million tonnes, which down be won by 0.5 million tonnes from the record 1981-82 level. And we expect barley carryover stocks on July 31, 1983 to be a burden-some 5.2 million tonnes or 1.1 million tonnes higher than they were in July of 1982."

Alberta's 1982 barley crop is estimated at 6.3 million tonnes or 9 per cent lower than the province's record 1981 crop. Alberta farmers planted 4 per cent fewer acres of barley this year than in 1981. And according to Mr. Lyster, the province's average yield is estimated at 46.8 bushels per acre, which would be nearly 3 bushels per acre below that of last year.

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Feed Grain Price and Supply Situation (cont'd)

Mr. Lyster says the United States is in the process of harvesting its second successive record corn crop, and that total U.S. corn supplies for 1982-83 are estimated at 10.7 billion bushels or about 16 per cent above the near record level of 1981-82. Carryover stocks of U.S. corn for 1982-83 are projected to be an extremely burdensome 3,332 billion bushels, up 41 per cent compared with 1981-82, Mr. Lyster says.

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October 15, 1982

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## CANADIAN CANOLA SITUATION

Although canola prices are expected to remain generally weak between now and next summer, a modest strengthening, with prices in the $285 to $295 range, is anticipated between now and mid-winter.

According to Alberta Agriculture's grains marketing economist, Les Lyster, Canadian canola supplies for 1982-83 will not be adequate to meet historical crush and export levels. This situation is in sharp contrast with the world oilseed situation where supplies are more than adequate to meet the expected demand. Mr. Lyster says Canada's 1982 canola crop is currently estimated at 2.07 million tonnes, up 12 per cent from the 1981 level.

Alberta's 1982 crop is estimated to be 873,000 tonnes, up 15 per cent compared with 1981. Farmers planted 1.85 million acres, 28 per cent above the average planted in 1981. However, the provincial average yield is estimated to be more than 2 bushels per acre below what it was in 1981 or 20.8 bushels per acre. Mr. Lyster says drought and frost in northern Alberta were responsible for the decline in yield, but that frost damage in this province was not as severe or as widespread as it was in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Consequently, the average quality of the Alberta crop is above that of the eastern Prairies.

Total Canadian canola supplies for 1982-83 are estimated to be 2.745 million tonnes, which is 13 per cent lower than last year's supplies. In fact, this estimate represents the lowest supply level since the 1977-78 crop year.

Mr. Lyster says the Canadian crush and exports will be limited by available supplies during 1982-83. And he says this situation will be further aggravated by the large quantity of low quality seed. Carryover stocks of canola at the end of the 1982-83 crop year will be extremely tight.

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Canadian Oil Seed Situation (cont'd)

Total U.S. soybean supplies for 1982-83 are estimated to be a record 2.568 billion bushels, up 11 per cent from 1981-82. And the United States Department of Agriculture projects the 1982-83 soybean crush and exports to be up by 5.8 and 3.3 per cent respectively. Carryover stocks as of September 1, 1983 are projected to be a record 430 million bushels or 60 per cent higher than they were in September of this year.

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November 10, 1982

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## WORLD WHEAT CROWN GOES TO ALBERTA

Alberta has captured the world wheat championship at the Royal winter Fair in Toronto. Jim Miklos of Wrentham, south of Lethbridge won the title with a sample of Canuck, a hard red spring wheat variety.

Mr. Miklos made history in the competitions this year by winning first place in open hard red or white spring wheat category as well as placing first in the pedigreed hard red spring class. Agricultural officials say to their knowledge this is the first time these classes have been won by the same person.

In addition to a cash prize, Mr. Miklos wins a trophy donated by the Canadian Seed Growers Association.

Other winners at this year's Royal Winter Fair include:

| | |
|---|---|
| Pedigreed Barley 2 row | - 1st place John Holmen (Wayne)<br>4th place Jerry Kubik (Wrentham)<br>7th place John Huvenaars (Hays) |
| Pedigreed Barley 6-row | - 5th place Frank Kastelic (Sangudo)<br>6th place Jerry Ratke (Stony Plain)<br>7th place Frank Kastelic (Sangudo) |
| Pedigreed Flax | - 2nd place Doug Campbell (Coaldale)<br>6th place Stan LaValley (Lethbridge)<br>7th place Jerry Kubik (Wrentham)<br>9th place Robert Luco (Lethbridge)<br>10th place John Holmen (Wayne) |

-(cont'd)-

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WORLD WHEAT CROWN GOES TO ALBERTA

| | |
|---|---|
| Pedigreed Oats | - 1st place Richard Mueller (Barrhead)<br>2nd place Charles Ingles (Wetaskiwin) |
| Pedigreed Hard Red Spring Wheat | - 1st place Jim Miklos (Wrentham)<br>2nd place Jerry Kubik (Wrentham)<br>6th place Lanny & Wallace Holmen (Wayne)<br>9th place Jerry Kubik (Wrentham) |
| Pedigreed Duram Wheat | - 1st place Harold Hierath (Milk River)<br>2nd place Jerry Kubik (Wrentham)<br>3rd place Robert Luco (Lethbridge) |
| Pedigreed Alfalfa Seed | - 1st place Steve Merkl (Brooks)<br>2nd place Elmer Larsen (Tilley)<br>3rd place Jorgen Larsen (Tilley)<br>6th place Jorgen Larsen (Tilley) |
| Pedigreed Brome Grass | - 1st place W. B. Fulton (Rockyford) |
| Pedigreed Fescue | 2nd place Jim Crone (High River)<br>3rd place Dietrich Pankow (Woking) |
| Pedigreed Rapeseed/ Canola | - 2nd place Glen Kvarnberg (Calmar)<br>3rd place Jerry Kubik (Wrentham)<br>5th place Diane Schatzke (Stony Plain)<br>9th place Albert Schatzke (Stony Plain) |
| Pedigreed Timothy Seed | - 1st place Ernest Kvarnberg (Calmar)<br>5th place Frank Kastelic (Sangudo) |
| Pedigreed - Other Species of Grass Seed | - 3rd place Ken Long (Cardston) |
| Pedigreed - Other Species of Forage Legume | - 1st place Frank Kastelic (Sangudo) |

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October 15, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MORE PROJECTS APPROVED FOR ON-FARM DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

To date, 37 projects have been offered awards under Alberta Agriculture's On-Farm Demonstration Program, which is a sub-program of Farming for the Future.

Grants offered under the program are intended to assist farmers and farm organizations in the on-farm testing and demonstration of projects concerned with new concepts and new technology in agriculture. And the funds may be used to purchase materials, equipment and supplies or they may be put towards the costs of travel, labor, data analysis, etc.

The 37 awards total $99,202, with an average of $2,681 being awarded per project.

Since the last listing of demonstration projects in the August 30, 1982 issue of Alberta Agriculture's publication, "Agri-News". the following new projects have been approved.

- (cont'd) -

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More Projects Approved For On-Farm Demonstration Program (cont'd)

| Project Title | Applicant and District Agriculturist | Location of Project in Alberta |
|---|---|---|
| Savory Grazing Method, Taber and Fort Macleod | B. & M. Holtman (D.A. - C. Rex and A. Toly) | Taber and Fort Macleod |
| Semi-Automated Gravity (Irrigation) Distribution System | A. E. Eckert (D.A. - G. Frank) | Duchess |
| Soil Moisture Conservation | B. Sommerville (D.A. - G. Werner) | Endiang |
| Soil Moisture Conservation Practice | L. Penosky (D.A. - G. Werner) | Botha |
| Liming and Ripping Acid Solonetzic Soil | D. Hughes (D.A. - H. Goudreau) | Wetaskiwin |
| Dairy Pasture Demonstration | E. Siemens (D.A. - G. Berger) | Rochester |
| Two Four-Wheel Drive Tractors Hooked in Tandem to be Operated by One Operator | J. Bauer (D.A. - J. Vanderleest) | Thorhild |
| Chaff Evaluation, Athabasca District | D. Bencharsky (D.A. - G. Berger) | Boyle |

Farmers who are interested in submitting demonstration proposals should contact their local district agriculturist.

More information on a particular project or on the On-Farm Demonstration Program can be obtained from the Secretary, Agricultural Research Council of Alberta, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 — 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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October 15, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CROW ISSUE INFORMATION MEETING

An information meeting on the Crow Issue will be held in the Three Hills Community Centre on Wednesday, November17, at 7:30 p.m.

Representatives of the Alberta Wheat Pool and the Commodity Coalition will be on hand to express their views on this important issue, and Lee Melvill, district agriculturist at Hanna, will look at some of the background data on the Crow Issue. The meeting, intended to provide information, not to convert people to one point of view or another, is being sponsored by the Kneehill local of Unifarm.

Further information can be obtained from Jack Hazelwood, district agriculturist at Three Hills.

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October 15, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PESTICIDE SAFETY PREACHED

"We are one step ahead of everyone regarding pesticide safety", says Dr. Moe Hussain, pesticide issues coordinator for Alberta Agriculture.

He was commenting on recent articles in the press which stated that farmers should be told about the hazards of pesticides and about the safety precautions that should be taken while using them. Dr. Hussain says "We have for many years now been urging farmers through courses, meetings, pamphlets and fairs to use safety precautions to reduce pesticide exposure".

Since most farmers want to know why they should use precautions, Alberta Agriculture has been working since last summer on a new program to provide them with information about the short-term and long-term hazards of pesticides. "We want to impress upon farmers the need to take precautions", says Dr. Hussain "and we feel that if we point out the potential hazards farmers will be more willing to take the necessary measures to prevent such hazards". At the present time there is a small percentage of farmers who are aware of the potential hazards of these chemicals, and Alberta Agriculture is hoping to expand this awareness so that most farmers will take precautionary safety measures.

In commenting on the recent death of a British Columbia farmer who drank Monitor, Dr. Hussain points out that the pesticide is a very toxic one, and that it will kill very quickly if a tablespoonful is taken by mouth. He says "That particular pesticide is used on a very small scale in Alberta and users are urged to take precuationary measures to avoid any kind of exposure. With minimum precautions, it is not likely that enough of the chemical would be

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Pesticide Safety Preached (cont'd)

absorbed, for example, through the skin to cause any symptoms of poisoning, much less death. But if anyone drinks a good portion, whether accidentially or deliberately, he will die".

Since farmers in Alberta do not use many chemicals which are highly toxic, poisonings from chemical exposure are not very common in this province. However, many low toxicity chemicals have the potential to cause long-term health problems and farmers should, therefore, take all prescribed safety measures.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## REDA WINTER INFORMATION PROGRAMS

"Transportation 1990" is the title of one of 10 papers being offered in the Rural Education and Development Association's (REDA) adult Winter Information Program.

Written in three parts by three different authors, this paper presents three views of what lies ahead for the transportation of agricultural commodities. The authors are Howard Falkenberg, President of Unifarm, Dr. J.J. Richter, Faculty of Rural Economy, University of Alberta; and Ross Walker, Vice president, Mountain Region, Canadian National Railways.

The other nine papers are entitled: "Farm Computers – A look at Present and Future"; "Surviving the Credit Crunch in Agriculture"; "Getting Volunteers and Keeping Them"; "Tax Planning for Farmers (Update 1982)"; "Housing Ourselves – An Introduction to Co-op Housing"; "Rural Women as Community Leaders"; "Is this Really It" (Responsibilities of Being Independent for Young People); "Water Conservation"; and "The Touch of Her Hand (The Changing Role of Rural Women)".

REDA also provides a Winter Information Program especially for young people. This year there are eight papers which have been designed to meet the needs and problems of today's youth.

Subscribers to either the adult or youth Winter Information Program may choose two papers free. The rest are available at $1 each in the adult program and for 50¢ each in the youth program. Orders of 25 or more under either program will receive a 20 per cent discount.

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REDA Winter Information Programs

REDA, now in its 17th year of the Alberta Rural Development Studies Program, is designed to provide information to individuals, families and groups on current trends and problems in the economic and social development of rural Albertan towns and farms. It is supported by Alberta Agriculture; Unifarm; Federated Co-operatives Ltd.; the Co-operators and the Credit Union Central (Alberta).

You can obtain further information on REDA's Winter Information Programs from the Rural Education and Development Association, 14815 - 119 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 2N9 (Telephone: 451-5959).

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October 15, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MANAGE YOUR MONEY WISELY SEMINAR

Alberta Agriculture's district office at Leduc will be sponsoring a free seminar on Managing Your Money Wisely at the community hall in Ardrossan on December 2, at the Ukrainian Hall in Thorsby on December 3, and in the Provincial Building in Drayton Valley on December 4, 1982.

At each place the program will commence at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee. The seminar will get underway at 10 a.m. with the following topics and speakers:

- Managing your Records for Positive Cash Flow —
  Ron Cuthbert, Supervisor, Farm Records Analysis, Farm Management Branch, Olds.

- The Strategy of Borrowing Money
  Gary Shufelt, Research Officer, Farm Credit Corporation, Edmonton.

- How to Keep more Money in Your Own Pocket —
  Bob Winchell, Regional Farm Economist, Barrhead.

- The Team Approach with IST Canfarm
  Sam Fialkow, Marketing Manager, Alberta, plus Resource Assistants.

- Panel Discussion on Money Management —
  the four previous speakers will summarize the day's discussions.

Coffee will be provided for those who bring a bag lunch.

For further information and advance registration contact your local district office at Sherwood Park, Leduc or Drayton Valley.

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October 15, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MANAGER OF AGRIBUSINESS LENDING APPOINTED

Robert Thompson, general manager of lending at the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), has announced the appointment of Mike McCarty to the position of manager of agribusiness lending.

In his new position, Mr. McCarty will supervise and direct the agribusiness lending section of the corporation. And he will be responsible for managing and monitoring the corporation's agribusiness portfolio, researching the credit needs of the agribusiness industry, and recommending and subsequently implementing new or revised programs and policies.

Mr. McCarty has been involved in the agribusiness field for the past 10 years in British Columbia where his most recent position was general manager of Otter Co-op. Otter Co-op is the 10th largest co-op in Western Canada.

With his expertise in administration, agribusiness and finance, Mr. McCarty will be a valuable addition to the senior management staff of ADC and an asset to the Camrose community.

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October 15, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ADC APPOINTS NEW LOANS OFFICER AT RED DEER

Stu Church, the Agricultural Development Corporation's (ADC), regional manager for the Red Deer regional office has announced the appointment of Marlene Christians as loans officer there.

Ms. Christians grew up on the family farm (beef and grain) in the Donalda area, and attended school in Donalda before taking her high school in Stettler and Camrose. She graduated from the Camrose Lutheran College in 1977, and then enrolled at the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Commerce. She graduated in 1981 with a B. Com, having majored in finance.

Following graduation she worked with two accounting firms in Edmonton before joining the Agriculture Development Corporation.

Ms. Christians will be training in the Red Deer regional office, and will subsequently assume responsibility for a district office.

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# AGRI-NEWS

November 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# ADC FIRST HALF LENDING RESULTS

J. Harold Hanna, chairman and managing director of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), has announced the coporation's results for the six month period ending September 30, 1982.

Direct farm loans for the first half of the present fiscal year numbered 869 for a total of $121 million, compared with 833 for a total of $122 million during the same period in 1981. Of the 869 loans, 666 were approved for beginning farmers and they amounted to $96 million. These figures are down from 727 beginning farmer loans and $110 million recorded in the first half of the 1981 fiscal year. Conversely, an increase in the number of loans made under the corporation's other direct farm loan programs occurred, due largely to the increased demand for financial restructuring.

Direct agribusiness loans in the current year numbered 25 for $7 million compared with 19 for $5 million in the same period of 1981.

Alberta Farm Development loans (AFDL) guaranteed by ADC in the six month period in 1982 numbered 2937 and amounted to $41 million, compared with 2,700 and $36 million in the same period last year. Specific guaranteed loans to farmers and agribusinesses in the first six month of the current fiscal year numbered 41 loans and totalling $27 million compared with 32 and $12 million in 1981

During the first half of the fiscal year ADC's incentives accrued or paid to Alberta farmers amounted to $11 million compared with $5.5 million for the same period of 1981.

Mr. Hanna says that the levelling out in direct farm loans in the current year can be attributed to the general economic downturn and to future uncertainty. However, the more recent decline in interest rates generally, and the introduction of the new Alberta

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ADC First Half Lending Results (cont'd)

interest shielding programs should have a positive effect on the overall provincial economy, and agriculture in particular, Mr. Hanna added.

He indicated that the corporation is currently working on improvements to the loan application process as well as modernizing internal methods and systems.

ADC's lending continues to be funded through the sale of debentures to the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

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November 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FEDERAL GRANT HELPS WITH NEW FARM INVESTMENTS

The Small Business Investment Grant Program, announced in the federal government's June 28, 1982 budget, applies to small businesses which borrow to finance new investment or to finance research and development, and it provides for an interest rebate of up to four percentage points over two years

Dan Hilsenteger, agricultural economist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, says loans made to small businesses by financial institutions will qualify for these grants providing the loans are used for the following purposes:

- to finance purchases made after June 28, 1982 and before March 31, 1983 of new depreciable property which will be used in an active business in Canada. A new tractor or a new hog barn are examples of depreciable property that would qualify for such a grant.
- to finance expenditures on scientific research made after June 28, 1982 and before March 31, 1983.

Mr. Hilsenteger says to be eligible for these grants a loan must be for at least $10,000 and for not more than $500,000. And he says the grant will be reduced in cases where it or any other assistance would reduce the interest on the loan to less than 12 per cent.

So, if you plan to build a new hog barn etc. in the near future, you should apply for a grant as soon as possible. And remember, the money you borrow must be completely disbursed before March 31, 1983 for the total amount of the loan to qualify for a grant.

You can obtain an application form and additional information of the federal Small Business Investment Grant Program from your local banker, credit union, treasury branch farm credit office or machinery finance company.

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November 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# PURCHASING SPRINKLER IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Are you planning to buy a sprinkler irrigation system in the near future? Even though we are presently experiencing a buyers market, you should examine your proposed purchase carefully before signing on the dotted line.

This advice comes from Alberta Agriculture's systems engineer, Len Ring, who points out that sprinkler irrigation dealers are forced to come up with a system at as low a cost as possible when business competition is very strong, and that they sometimes have to cut corners to do this. He says this does not mean that there are not good buys around for the shrewd purchaser, but it does mean that you should evaluate bids from competing dealers very carefully. For example, the purchase price of an irrigation system could be lower from one dealer than from another, but the system's annual operating and maintenance costs could be so high that they would more than offset the saving in capital cost. A more specific example might be the difference in the cost of operating a seven-inch and an eight-inch irrigation mainline. The difference might not appear to be very great, but, according to Mr. Ring, the extra energy required to pump water through the smaller pipe could be extremely high under certain circumstances.

He also says that there are many subtle differences in irrigation systems which may not be immediately apparent, buy which can be responsible for a cost difference from one system to another. He stresses that you should know the pressure rating and the exact dimensions of the various pipelines so that you can compare systems of equal quality. For instance, PVC pipe comes in different dimensions, and eight-inch PIP pipe has a smaller inside diameter than eight-inch IPS pipe. Hence, the former is cheaper but it results in a higher friction loss Mr. Ring says it may or may not be suitable for an irrigation project depending upon the specific situation.

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Purchasing Sprinkler Irrigation Systems (cont'd)

Some manufacturers make pipe that is 20 feet long, but that covers slightly less than 20 feet after it has been assembled, while other manufacturers make their pipe more than 20 feet long so that it has an installed length of 20 feet. Mr. Ring says such minor differences should be taken into account when bids from competing dealers are within a few percentage points of each other.

Dealer servicing is also extremely important and should never be overlooked when purchasing an irrigation system. According to Mr. Ring, centre pivot irrigation systems will almost certainly require some servicing. Hence, anybody who buys one should make sure that the firm selling it can and will provide adequate service. Again, if the dealer has been forced to reduce the price of his irrigation equipment as much as possible, he may not be able to provide his customers with as good service as he was able to do when his profit margin was larger. Another thing that Mr. Ring recommends comparing when evaluating irrigation systems is the type of protection used on the pipe and other parts of the machine (galvanized, epoxy-coated, special alloys etc.).

If you are contemplating buying an electric pumping unit, be sure to check the type and quality of the switch-gear used in the electrical control system. Mr. Ring says that the cost of the electric controls in most irrigation systems is approximately equal to the cost of the motor itself, and yet we often overlook the importance of the quality of this part of the system. He recommends that you make sure that all the components are suitable for the horsepower and the current that will be used to run the system. Be sure that all the electrical work on the pumping unit and on the centre pivot system has been performed in accordance with the provincial electrical code.

In summary, Mr. Ring says this is a good time to buy a sprinkler irrigation system, buy he emphasizes that you should know what you are buying before you sign anything.

If you need help to decide on the type of irrigation system you need or to compare proposals from different firms, contact your nearest farm irrigation services branch office. Offices are located in Airdrie, Strathmore, Brooks, Vauxhall, Medicine Hat, Taber, Lethbridge and Bow Island.

November 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## HIRING AN ACCOUNTANT

The coming of the New Year means taxation time will soon be upon us again. Do you have a competent accountant? If not, you would be wise to find one because an accountant's services are invaluable in the complex world of farm tax law.

Since choosing the right accountant for your needs is a project in itself, you should proceed with care. Write down a few selection criteria and then interview three or four accountants. It is a good idea to press them on specific questions pertaining to your operation.

Remember that an accountant who boasts that his clients never get audited may actually mean that he is just too conservative to take a chance with the gray areas of the tax code. A good accountant should be able to work legitimately for you, and he should be able to explain why he suggests that you follow a certain procedure. And remember, if he cannot explain it to you, he will not be able to explain it to Revenue Canada!

Phil Dixon, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Rocky Mountain House, thinks one of the most important questions to ask an accountant is whether he will be able to give you advice on a year-round basis or whether he will only be able to work on your tax return at the end of each year. "At the minimum, he should suggest a tax planning session for October or November that is designed to help you to save money before the year end." says Mr. Dixon. "He should be able to project a rough income total and tax liabilities, and perhaps suggest either delaying payments or prepurchasing supplies to reduce your taxable income."

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Hiring An Accountant (cont'd)

A good accountant will have an inquiring mind. And when he has your records for previous years, he should be able to provide you with information on your rate of return to capital, your optimum debt load, etc.

So hire the accountant that best suits your needs, and use him all the year round. Once you have found him, stick to him. You will find it well worthwhile.

If you would like more information on this subject you will find it in our Alberta Agriculture publication entitled "How to Select An Accountant and Obtain Maximum Benefits" ( Agdex 818 - 14). It is available from District Offices and the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 8th Floor, 9718 107 Street, Edmonton, Alta., T5K 2C8

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November 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# IRRIGATION WATER USE IN ALBERTA

by Alfred Birch
Resource Economist, Alberta Agriculture

How well does irrigation make use of the water? Almost 95 per cent of the off-stream use of water in southern Alberta is accounted for by irrigation and, since this water is a valuable resource, its efficient management is very important.

The amount of water required by irrigated crops currently amounts to more than 50 per cent of the water diverted from rivers for irrigation. This percentage, which is called the overall irrigation efficiency, is the product of the efficiency of the irrigation water distribution system (which currently averages about 70 per cent in Alberta) times the efficiency of farm water management (averaging approximately 75 per cent).

Higher irrigation efficiency will make more water available for both irrigation and other water uses, but improvements can be costly. The important question is: At what point does the cost of improving either distribution or farm irrigation efficiency begin to exceed the benefits from that improvement? It is more important to maximize the total benefits minus costs from better water management than to maximize the physical efficiency of irrigation in the same way that a farmer seeks to maximize profit rather than yield per acre.

Recent studies have shown that many of the opportunities for the rehabilitation of the irrigation system in Alberta will produce benefits greater than their costs. The direct benefits to farmers from a series of rehabilitation alternatives which were examined were in the order of 125 to 150 per cent of the associated total costs. Total benefits to the farmer plus estimated benefits to non-farmers in southern Alberta were approximately 175 to 225 per cent of the costs of rehabilitation.

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Irrigation Water Use In Alberta (cont'd)

Opportunities for improving the efficiency of the irrigation distribution system involve such things as the lining of canals and the replacement of canal control structures. Canal lining reduces seepage and thus lowers the amount of water lost from the canal and, at the same time, often reduces the damage done to adjacent land caused by salt build up. In some cases the use of pressurized pipelines rather than canals may be warranted.

Irrigation efficiency will never reach 100 per cent, because of such losses as evaporation. Nevertheless, the rehabilitation of the irrigation system in southern Alberta can reduce water loss, and, at the same time, create significant net benefits for the region and the province.

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November 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CHRISTMAS TREE THEFTS

Two people who had pleaded not guilty last December to stealing a Colorado blue spruce Christmas tree, valued at $325, from the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre changed their plea to guilty recently and were fined accordingly.

One received a fine of $50 for petty trespassing. The other was fined $350 for trespassing and theft, and he had to pay $325 to the Crown for the tree, making a total cost to him of $675. He also had to pay all the associated legal costs and too had to serve spend one day in jail.

In reporting this case, the director of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre's, George Grainger, said another individual who was also appre - hended last December for stealing a Christmas tree pleaded guilty at the time and was fined $850. He too had to serve one day in jail.

The moral of the story is that it does not pay to try to get something from nothing! In both of the above cases the Christmas trees turned out to be very expensive!

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CERTIFIED PRECODITIONED FEEDERS SALE SLATED FOR EDMONTON

An Alberta Certified Preconditioned Feeders sale will be held at the Edmonton Public Stockyards on December 10.

This sale will replace two sales that were planned for the Modern Livestock Auction Market in Clyde on November 15 and December 13. Those sales had to be cancelled because the facilities burned down in early November.

Rick Bjorge, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Westlock, says there should be a very good buyer turnout at the Edmonton sale because the Edmonton Public Stockyards started a Canada-wide promotion campaign for the sale almost a month ago. It will start at 10 a.m. on December 10.

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## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTED IN TELEVISION SPECIAL

"Research — Improving the Odds" is a 30-minute documentary television special that looks at the role that agricultural research and development plays in improving the odds against the risks that every farmer inevitably faces.

It has been said: "You need to be a gambler to be a farmer". This is true, and, like the river boat gambler, the farmer is continually looking for ways to improve his odds.

"Research — Improving the Odds" reviews the success stories of wheat and canola, and features scientists like doctors Helm, Strubble and Rennie who discuss their work on barley breeding, sex pheremones and nitrogen fixing in cereals. The program also shows how the $200 million spent each year by the federal and provincial governments on agricultural research help to improve the position of the farmer and how they pay dividends to the consumer.

"Research — Improving the Odds" was produced by Tom Dodd of Alberta Agriculture and will be seen in the following places on the following dates and on the following channels.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Edmonton | Tuesday | Dec. 7 | 7:00 p.m. | CFRN | Channel 3 |
| Grande Prairie | Tuesday | Dec. 7 | 7:00 p.m. | CFRN | Channel 13 |
| Medicine Hat | Tuesday | Dec. 7 | 7:30 p.m. | CHAT | Channel 4 |
| Red Deer | Tuesday | Dec. 7 | 6.30 p.m. | CKRD | Channel 6 |
| Calgary | Thursday | Dec. 9 | 7:00 p.m. | CFAC | Channel 2 |
| Lethbridge | Thursday | Dec. 9 | 7:00 p.m. | CFAC | Channel 7 |
| Lloydminster | Thursday | Dec. 9 | 7:00 p.m. | CKSA | Channel 2 |

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November 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NEW DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH APPOINTED

Dr. A. O. Olson, assistant deputy minister responsible for research and administration, has announced the appointment of Dr. James P. Mahone to the position of director of Alberta Agriculture's new research division.

The research division, responsible for coordinating departmental research efforts and administering major research funding programs such as Farming for the Future and the Alberta Department of Agriculture Research Fund, became operational on November 15.

Jim Mahone, who joined Alberta Agriculture as the department's reproductive physiologist in 1980, received his Ph.D in animal science and physiology from Michigan State, U.S.A. in 1977. Prior to joining Alberta Agriculture he was an assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science at Macdonald College, McGill University, Montreal, between 1978 and 1980.

A specialist in livestock management systems, Dr. Mahone brings to his new position experience gained in both basic and applied research while teaching at the University of Alberta and at McGill University as well as from his postdoctoral work at Purdue University in the United States in 1978.

A native of New York, Dr. Mahone received his B.Sc. in naval architecture and marine engineering at the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1967. After five years of service in the United States Coast Guard he started his career in agriculture with postgraduate studies at the University of Arizona, U.S.A. in 1972.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ADC HEAD OFFICE MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENT

Paul Stanley, manager of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation's (ADC) loan administration, has announced the appointment of Bill Gialet as assistant manager of loan administration at the head office in Camrose.

Bill Gialet was born and raised on a farm south of Camrose, in the Ferintosh area. He spent 27 years in the banking business with the latter years being spent in senior management. For the past three years he has been in the real estate industry and latterly in management positions.

With his years of experience in the banking business, Mr. Gialet has a solid background in all credit areas, and he is familiar with all types of securities, including mortgages and debenture financing. He is married and has three children, and he intends to take up residence in the Camrose area.

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AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

# AGRI-NEWS

November 29, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR RURAL YOUTH

Pauline Hellyer, who hails from New Zealand, spent two weeks in Alberta recently promoting the International Agricultural Exchange Association (IAEA).

*Pauline Hellyer*

She arrived in the Maritimes in September from Denmark where she has been working with IAEA for the past two years, and travelled across Canada giving presentations and interviews at agricultural colleges, universities, etc, and to the news media on the marvellous opportunities that are available to young rural Canadians through IAEA. After Alberta she went on to Vancouver Island in British Columbia and from there she was going to Great Falls, Montana, U.S.A. where she will be opening up an IAEA office.

In case you are wondering what IAEA is, it is a non-profit organization that was formed in 1963 to operate exchange study programs in agriculture for young men and women from Canada, the United States, Europe, Iceland, Australia and New Zealand — there are 18 member countries in all. Its main objectives are: to provide rural youth with an opportunity to study agricultural methods in other parts of the world; to develop an understanding of life and cultural patterns in other countries; and to strengthen and improve mutual understanding among the countries involved through experience and personal contacts between the exchangee and his or her host family. IAEA has close links with many young farmers' movements around the world.

To be eligible to participate in an IAEA exchange program, applicants must be between the ages of 19 and 28, age, and they must have some practical farming experience. They may choose the type of farm training they wish to participate in, and they will be placed with a host family where, in most cases, they will live and work as members of the family. They will receive free room and board and will be paid a training allowance, which will be set by the host family association of the country involved.

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International Agricultural Exchange Program For Rural Youth (cont'd)

There are four categories of work available under the IAEA program. They are referred to as Agricultural Trainee, Horticultural Trainee, Home Management Trainee and Agri-Mix Trainee. To be eligible for the first category an applicant (male or female) must have sufficient experience to undertake general farm duties. Participants in the second category must have enough experience in horticulture to work in an orchard, on a vegetable farm and/or in a greenhouse. Participants in the home management category will do household duties and may also be required to look after children and/or help in the garden. In the Agri-Mix category, participants will be expected to spend about 50 per cent of their time in the home and 50 per cent doing general farm work. This category is intended for people who have only limited agricultural and horticultural experience.

Ms. Hellyer says in the past Canadians appeared to favor Australia and New Zealand when choosing an exchange country, but that now the most popular countries seem to be in Europe. She believes this is because of the great variety of work and travel experiences that are possible in Europe. Up to the present time, 362 young Albertans have worked in the countries which are members of IAEA.

Ms. Hellyer, who, incidentally stayed with a host family in the Champion area of Alberta in 1979, says young people who participate in the IAEA program buy a package which includes group travel, a work permit, placement on an approved farm, orientation seminars, insurance, etc. in another country for anywhere from four to 13 months, depending upon the country, etc. And she advises anyone who is interested in going to Europe under the IAEA program to apply in January or February 1983 and anyone interested in going to Australia or New Zealand to apply before June 1983.

For further information contact your district agriculturist or contact IAEA, 1211 - 11th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T3C 0M5.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# YEAR-END PLANNING TO REDUCE THE FARM TAX BITE

by Merle Good and Dan Hilsenteger,
Financial Management Section, Alberta Agriculture, Olds

With 1982 coming to a close, farmers should be seriously thinking about income tax management. To reduce this year's high interest costs, some farmers may have sold additional inventory and/or made capital sales to pay off loans, and the revenue from these transactions will be included in income for 1982. Remember, only interest is deductible as an expense on loan payments. The loan principal payment is not an expense. And keep in mind that you may experience a 1982 year-end that has a tight cash flow and/or a small bank balance, but still have a high tax bill.

To avoid an unpleasant surprise when you finalize your tax return next spring, check your income and expense positions now. Be sure that:

- All expense items have been included in your records. Out of pocket purchases are often missed, which can result in minor items having an effective cost of considerably more than the original cost. For example, if a farmer fails to claim a $1.00 purchase, the net cost of that item (assuming a 25% tax bracket) would be $1.33.
- Individual tools and equipment purchased for more than $200 have been depreciated. Remember, purchases costing under $200 are fully deductible in the year of payment; not just 50 per cent deductible as thought after the Nov. 12, 1981 Budget.
- The business portion of various expenses has been included. Remember that a quarter of house maintenance and utility expenses and up to two-thirds of car expenses, including depreciation, can usually be claimed as a business expense.
- Annual accounting and legal fees for farm management and income tax purposes have been deducted. Legal, appraisal and accounting fees associated with buying land or equipment should be added to the capital cost of the asset.

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Year-End Planning To Reduce The Farm Tax Bite (cont'd)

- Government subsidies or rebates that were received have been reported as income for the year, even if they were designed to reduce expenses or compensate for income losses in previous years.
- Proper procedures have been followed when reporting income from unusual sources, such as patronage dividends, insurance proceeds, commodity trading and oil and gas lease revenues. A publication entitled "Reporting Unusual Farm Income for Tax Purposes" (FS 837 - 10) discusses these and other unusual sources of income. It is available from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.
- A reasonable sum of money has been deducted as a business expense for business travel and to cover up to two conventions per year if applicable. Eligible expenses include travel, registration fees, meals and lodging. Make sure you have receipts to document these expenses.

Remember that since the Nov. 12, 1981 Budget, only one-half of the normal capital cost allowance (CCA) is deductible in the year that a depreciable asset is purchased. The deduction is made on the difference between the purchase price of the asset and any applicable trade-in value.

Once you have determined what your projected taxable income is likely to be, the question is: "Do I want to adjust it, and if so, in which direction?".

**TAX STRATEGIES FOR A HIGH INCOME YEAR**

| Strategy | Comments |
|---|---|
| • Purchase supplies at year-end | Even with high interest rates, it may pay to borrow additional funds to take advantage of significant tax deductions, early purchase discounts, etc. |

- (cont'd) -

Year-End Planning To Reduce The Farm Tax Bite (cont'd)

| | |
|---|---|
| • Use deffered grain tickets to both reduce income and to increase expenses | Endorse any tickets and give them to your supply dealer as a type of post-dated cheque. The result will be a deductible expense in 1982 and a deferral of income until 1983 when the dealer cashes your deferred grain tickets. |
| • Pay your spouse and children a salary for work performed on the farm | A salary of approximately $6,000 will not attract a tax liability in 1982. In a 30 per cent tax bracket, the net effect of claiming a $6,000 salary versus using the spousal marriage deduction would be an $867 tax saving.<br>Children under 18 can earn $2,320 and children 18 and over can earn $2,440 before a reduction in your exemption claim for them will occur. |
| • Buy machinery if needed so that you can take advantage of the capital cost write-off and investment tax credit on new purchases | This strategy is no longer as useful as it was because of the new one-half rate rule on CCA as explained earlier. However the investment tax credit is still available and has been extended to new trucks with a gross vehicle weight of over 26,001 pounds. |
| • Pay dividends if you are incorporated | Approximately $40,000 of dividends can be earned tax free assuming no other source of income. However, 1982 is the last year in which dividends can be earned without having to pay the new 12.5 per cent dividend distribution tax. |

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Year-End Planning To Reduce The Farm Tax Bite (cont'd)

| | |
|---|---|
| • Contribute to a registered retirement saving Plan (RRSP), especially if you can earn more than $1,000 of interest income or dividends | The use of an RRSP for income averaging is on the rise. Contributions are deductible and there are no restrictions on withdrawals except a small withholding tax. |
| • Consider loaning funds to your spouse and children on an interest free demand note. Have them invest the money so each earns up to $1,000 of interest income per year. | The loan aspect of the transaction will override the income attribution rules and thus allow the interest to be taxed in the hands of the recipient of the loan. |
| • Use cash to retire any personal loans, and, if necessary, reborrow the funds under a business loan | Under a business loan the interest will be deductible and the net effect will be the exchange of a non-deductible interest loan for a deductible interest loan. |

If you want to increase your income to facilitate the full use of personal exemptions and Canada Pension Plan contributions or to claim previous business losses, consider the following strategies that will increase net or taxable income.

**TAX STRATEGIES FOR A LOW INCOME YEAR**

| | |
|---|---|
| • Increase your income by selling inventories, postponing the payment of expenses and deducting less than the maximum allowable CCA | If personal exemptions cannot be claimed each year, they are lost until a five-year block average is filed. |
| • Use the livestock inventory provision to artifically boost income for 1982 | A farmer who has livestock may add to his current year's income any amount up to the fair market value of the livestock. However, the amount added to income in one year must be deducted from the income of the following year. See the publication "Tax and the Livestock Inventory Provision" (FS 837-9). It can be obtained from district agriculturists and the print media branch. |

- (cont'd) -

Year-End Planning to Reduce The Farm Tax Bite (cont'd)

| | |
|---|---|
| • Consider withdrawing all or part of your RRSP | A withdrawal of an RRSP in a low income year may result in overall tax savings. Although a withholding tax will have to be paid when withdrawing money from your RRSP, it will be credited to your income tax that is payable for that year. |
| • Cash grain tickets, take cash advances or sell assets that trigger capital gains | More income will be brought into the tax year which can facilitate a reduction of debt and interest costs without triggering a corresponding tax liability. |
| • Consider block averaging | The use of the block averaging technique may produce a refund of taxes paid in one or more of the past five or six years. Investigate the "quirk" in the income tax rules which allows an investment tax credit to be claimed twice when using the block average technique. |
| • Claim the maximum CCA deduction in conjunction with the livestock inventory provision if you are a livestock producer | By claiming the maximum CCA deduction and artificially adding income through the livestock inventory provision, a livestock producer can generate a larger deductible expense in a subsequent high income year. |
| • Remember, if last year was a good year, you can carry losses from 1982 back one year and ahead five | By applying losses back against 1981, you will be able to recover some of the tax you paid in that year. Losses can also be carried forward and provide an extra deduction until used up by 1987. |

(cont'd)

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Year-End Planning to Reduce The Farm Tax Bite (cont'd)

SUMMARY

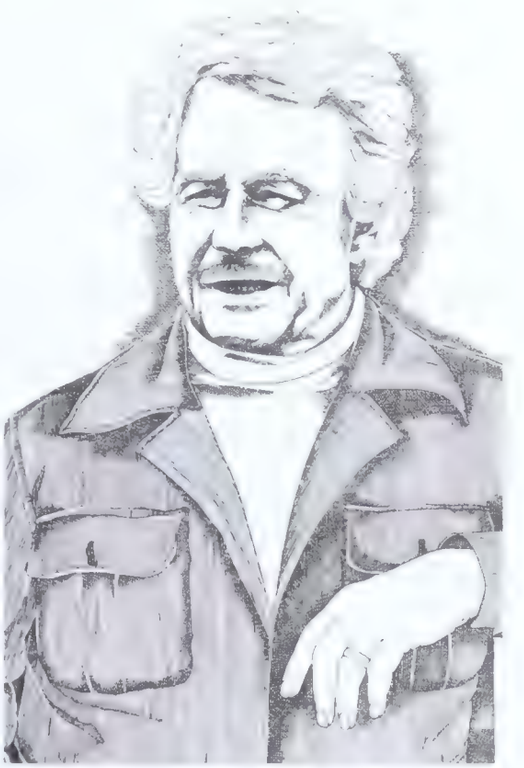
If you monitor your net farm income throughout the year, unpleasant surprises on April 30th should become things of the past! A good set of records will tell you and your accountant what your specific situation is, and you can use this information for choosing the tax strategy that will be best for you. The advice of a good accountant is becomong invaluable in view of the complexities of our present income tax system, and remember, your objective should always be to maximize profit; not to minimize tax.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## W. O. MITCHELL HOSTS TELEVISION SPECIAL

Alberta Agriculture is pleased to present W. O. Mitchell as the host and narrator of a television special entitled "The New Breed", which is a sort of "fighting back" look at the problems facing today's young farmers.

The program will feature a group of young Albertans addressing our economic problems and their possible solutions in the company of our "poet laureate". W. O. Mitchell. The young people do not necessarily think "anything" is possible, but they do think that a lot of things are possible and they are "fighting back".



*W. O. Mitchell*

Hence, "The New Breed" is not a pie-in-the-sky look at the difficulties facing Albertans on the land; it is an examination of how individuals are facing their problems and how they are planning to overcome them. Some grouch once wrote: "An optimist is somebody who isn't paying attention!" The youth who appear in "The New Breed" quickly dispell this notion. They are examples of tough, hard-nosed realists who are making their way, sometimes with difficulty, through the thicket just beyond their neatly tilled "Back 40".

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W. O. Mitchell Hosts Television Special (cont'd)

Their names are: Pat Shimbashi, who runs a large growing, processing and packaging agribusiness in Taber; Sylvester Mertz, who is a 25-year old poultry raiser in Redwater; Dwight Woody of Coronation, who was Canada's 1981 "Young Farmer of the Year", and Harry Haney of Haney Farms in Picture Butte who, with his family, runs a seed and feedlot business in southern Alberta.

Following is a list of the places, dates, times and channels on which "The New Breed" will be seen.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Edmonton | Tuesday, Dec. 14 | 7:00 p.m. | CFRN | Channel 3 |
| Grand Prairie | Tuesday, Dec. 14 | 7:00 p.m. | CFRN | Channel 13 |
| Medicine Hat | Tuesday, Dec. 14 | 7:30 p.m. | CHAT | Channel 4 |
| Red Deer | Tuesday, Dec. 14 | 6:30 p.m. | CKRD | Channel 6 |
| Calgary | Thursday, Dec. 16 | 7:00 p.m. | CFAC | Channel 2 |
| Lethbridge | Thursday, Dec. 16 | 7:00 p.m. | CFAC | Channel 7 |
| Lloydminster | Thursday, Dec. 16 | 7:00 p.m. | CKSA | Channel 2 |

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## MARKET GARDEN COURSES SCHEDULED FOR NEW YEAR

Alberta Agriculture's horticulture branch will sponsor market garden short courses in Edmonton, Calgary and Bonnyville at the following locations on the following dates in the New Year.

Edmonton — at the Exhibition Grounds from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on January 11, 12 and 13, 1983.

Calgary — at the Highlander Motor Inn from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on January 25, 26, and 27, 1983.

Bonnyville — at the Northlander Motor Hotel from 9 a.m to 9 p.m. on February 2, 1983, and from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on February 3, 1983.

The topics that will be covered during the first day of the Edmonton and Calgary short courses will include vegetable marketing, planning and managing a market garden and market garden equipment. Guest speakers will discuss vegetable production and marketing. The second day will feature early crop production (transplants, plastic mulches and tunnels), vegetable varieties and culture, weed control, disease and insect control and presentations by established market gardeners. The third day will cover such topics as vegetable storage and design, irrigation, strawberry and raspberry production, accounting and taxation.

At Bonnyville, the first day of the short course will include vegetable marketing, planning and managing a market garden, market garden equipment, early vegetable crop production and grower presentations. The second day will feature vegetable varieties and culture, weed control, disease and insect control, vegetable storage and design and strawberry and raspberry production.

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Market Garden Courses Scheduled For New Year (cont'd)

Ralph Trimmer, extension horticulturist with the horticulture branch, says the above courses are all designed for people who grow vegetables and/or fruit on a commercial basis and for people who are seriously considering going into the market garden business. They are not intended for the home gardener.

The registration fee for the courses in Edmonton and Calgary will be $10 per person per day or $25 for the three days. The fee for the Bonnyville course will be $10 per person per day.

You can obtain further information on the market garden short courses and application forms from Lloyd Hausher, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, T0J 0J0 (Telephone: 362-3391) or from Ralph Trimmer, Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, R.R. 6, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4K3 (Telephone: 973-3351).

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## TWO FAMILY FARM WORKSHOPS

Dr. Ron Hanson, an internationally known speaker on "Two Family Farms" will address rural families at Barrhead, Stony Plain and Westlock in mid-December.

As an associate professor of farm management and agricultural finance in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Nebraska, U.S.A., he has earned international recognition for his outstanding teaching ability and his work with students. He is a widely travelled speaker who delivers a powerful and inspirational message in a highly entertaining and motivational manner on true-to-life human relationships and the personal problems which can develop among family members when a son comes home, with a new wife and says he wants to start farming.

Dr. Hanson will be giving a workshop at the Barrhead Inn from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on December 16. His theme will be "Can Two Generations Farm Together?".

In the evening (from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.) of the same day, he will attend a supper meeting at the Garden Valley Hall near Stony Plain where he will discuss "Harmony on the Farm".

On December 17 he will be at the Westlock Inn where he will hold a workshop from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This time his theme will be "Weather It Out".

Dr. Hanson will be assisted at the two workshops by Cal Bradley, agricultural law solicitor with Alberta Agriculture, and Bob Simmermon, leadership and training specialist with Alberta Agriculture. At the supper meeting he will be assisted by Cal Bradley.

You can register for workshops and/or the supper meeting by telephoning the Barrhead office at 674-3351, the Stony Plain Office at 963-6101 or the Westlock office at 349-4465.

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## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

The Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville will present a seminar entitled "Wildlife Management and Research Programs in New Zealand" in its main conference room at 2:30 p.m. on December 7.

The seminar will be given by Professor Gordon R. Williams who is head of the Department of Entomology at the University College of Agriculture in Canterbury, New Zealand. He was formerly director of the New Zealand Wildlife Service.

Further information on the seminar can be obtained from Dr. S. Ramamoorthy, Bag 4000, Vegreville, Alberta, T0B 4L0 (Telephone: 632-6767).

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## THE RECOVERY OF ENERGY AND THE UTILIZATION OF SOLID WASTES SEMINAR

"Organic Recycling – Environmental and Renewable Resource Management" is the title of the seminar that the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville will be presenting in its main conference room at 2:30 p.m. on December 15.

The seminar will be presented by Dr. T. M. Paul who is director of the National Institute of Waste Recycling Technology in India and an international consultant on waste management by recycling. He is currently on a lecture tour in North America, and his talk, which will include a film on biogas production, will deal with the recovery of energy and the utilization of solid wastes.

Further information on "Organic Recycling - Environmental and Renewable Resource Management" can be obtained from Dr. S. Ramamoorthy, Bag 4000, Vegreville, Alberta, T0B 4L0 (Telephone: 632-6767).

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## TRADE DIRECTOR APPOINTED FOR EUROPE, NORTH AFRICA AND ISRAEL

Cliff Wulff, executive director of Alberta Agriculture's international marketing, has announced the appointment of Douglas Hill to the position of international trade director for east and west Europe, French-speaking North Africa and Israel.

Mr. Hill will be responsible for the continued development for Alberta's high quality commodity and processed agricultural products. He has an extensive and diversified background in agricultural processing and in processing development in Alberta. And he has recently been responsible for commodity and market development in Mexico, South America and Europe.

Prior to his present appointment, Mr. Hill was associate trade director for the area for which he is now trade director.

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## APPOINTMENT TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETING

Cliff Wulff, executive director of Alberta Agriculture's international marketing has announced that Fran Cullen has joined his staff as trade director responsible for trade shows and consultants.

In her new position, Miss Cullen will be helping Alberta agriculture and food exporters to promote their products in international trade shows as well as helping the province's consulting industries to promote their talents and services in various parts of the world.

She was born in Prince Edward Island and obtained her B. Sc. from St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia in 1966. Following graduation she joined Alberta Agriculture as a district home economist in Vulcan. She later became the first home economist to do urban extension work. At that time she was taking part in a pilot project.

Miss Cullen became commissioner of the food marketing branch in 1972 and retained that position until her present appointment. That branch helps Alberta's food industry to develop and expand marketing opportunities for its products in the retail and food service markets in Alberta and across Canada.

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## ASSOCIATE TRADE DIRECTOR APPOINTED

L. A. Normand, international trade director with Alberta Agriculture, has announced the appointment of Bryan D. Walton to the position of associate trade director.

As associate trade director, Mr. Walton will work closely with the international trade director in the development of export markets of Alberta's agricultural commodities, processed products and technical services in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East.

Mr. Walton was born in Westlock and obtained his B. Sc. in 1975 and his M.Sc. in 1979, both from the University of Alberta. Between his degrees, he worked for Renewal Resources Consulting Services Ltd. in Edmonton. After obtaining his M.Sc., he became executive assistant to the minister of agriculture, Dallas Schmidt, and held that position until his present appointment.

Mr. Walton's experience as executive assistant to the minister of agriculture has provided him with excellent knowledge and a broad exposure to most aspects of the agricultural industry in Alberta. And his participation in a number of foreign missions has given him good exposure to international marketing.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FORAGE AND SPECIAL CROPS SPECIALIST APPOINTED FOR NORTHEASTERN ALBERTA

Douglas Cooper, head of Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch, has announced the appointment of W. M. (Mike) Doggart to the position of forage and special crops specialist for northeastern Alberta. His headquarters will be in Vermilion.

Mr. Doggart's main responsibilites will be to communicate forage technology to extension workers, farmers and forage assocations and to stimulate forage production and pasture management in northeastern Alberta. He will also promote and evaluate special crops within the area.

He was born and raised on Vancouver Island, and he obtained his B. Sc. Agriculture from the University of British Columbia, having majored in soil management. His minor was forage management.

Following graduation in 1978, Mr. Doggart promoted pasture management in the central, interior and Peace River regions of B. C. During this period he provided technical assistance to the regional field crops specialist in Prince George, B. C., and he worked with the range branch of the B. C. Ministry of Forests in Prince George. Here his duties covered range improvement proposals under the Agricultural Rural Development Subsidiary Agreement.

From 1980 until his present appointment, Mr. Doggart was a field agrologist with B. C. Federation of Agriculture in Prince George where he was in charge of a three-year fertilizer crop response correlation project for the central interior of B. C. Perennial forage stands for hay and silage and cereal silage were the crops involved.

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DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED TO TWO HILLS

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointment of Lona Leiren to the position of district home economist at Two Hills.

Ms. Leiren was raised near Bawlf, Alberta, and obtained her B. Sc. (home economics) from the University of Alberta in 1981. Her major was in clothing and textiles.

In 1980 she worked in Spirit River as a summer assistant with the home economics branch. She joined Alberta Agriculture in October 1981 as a district home economist-in-training and took her training in Leduc. She then worked in the Morinville office for six months.

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# AGRI-NEWS

December 6, 1982

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Cross Metric Bakeware Off Your Xmas List . . . . . .10

Assistant Deputy Minister Of Planning And Economic Services Appointed. . . . . .12

Supervisor Of Home Economics Specialists Appointed . . . . . .13



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## EGG GRADING STATION OPENS NEAR RED DEER

Van Slyke Farms Ltd., a family poultry operation located seven kilometres west of Red Deer, recently marked the official opening of an egg grading station.

The general manager of Van Slyke Farms Ltd., Floyd Van Slyke, says his egg grading machine can turn out 70 cases of eggs per hour, and he estimates that its annual grading capacity is almost 20 million eggs.

The grading process involves passing the eggs through a washer and candling them to detect cracks and other imperfections. These eggs are removed and the remaining eggs are conveyed to scales where they are graded by weight before being placed in boxes or cartons and stored in a cool room for shipment.

Van Slyke Farms will market the eggs under the brand name of "Echo Eggs" and will serve an area of about 50 kilometres around the city of Red Deer. Customers will include hotels, restaurants, grocery stores and institutions.

The egg grading station cost $74,000 to construct and Van Slyke Farms Ltd. received financial assistance in the form of an $18,408 grant under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement.

This agreement is jointly funded and administered by the Federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and Alberta Agriculture. Since the agreement was signed in 1975, nutritive processors in Alberta have benefitted from assistance totalling more than $20 million.

Further information on the Van Slyke Farms Ltd. egg grading station or on the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement can be obtained from Dr. Jim Wiebe, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 – 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-4287).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FARM CASH RECEIPTS

Alberta farm cash receipts from the sale of both crops and livestock products are forecast to be down by $80 million in 1982 and to show a further decline of $190 million in 1983.

Chuck Sterling, the head of Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch, reports that Alberta grain marketings will be down from last year, and that the decline in grain prices has resulted from an abundance of world supplies. He says the present level of grain stocks on Alberta farms exceeds the record level that was set in 1970 by more than one million tonnes.

Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) final payments to Alberta farmers in January 1982 were down by $115 million compared with 1981, and the CWB's initial payments for 1982-83 are below those of the 1981-82 crop year for both barley and oats. And some reductions are anticipated in initial payments for the 1983-84 crop year.

Mr. Sterling expects CWB final payments in the first quarter of 1983 to be less than 60 per cent of those paid in 1982. Hence, even though Alberta grain producers have record stocks of grain on hand, their income outlook is not favourable!

A combination of lower prices, less deliveries than Alberta's record wheat marketings in 1981 and smaller CWB payments will result in lower wheat receipts in 1983, Mr. Sterling says. He also says that cash receipts from feed grains, particularly barley, will not increase in 1983 even with an increase in marketings. However, flaxseed deliveries, and, to an even greater extent, canola deliveries will provide additional cash receipts in 1983.

In contrast to the situation faced by grain producers, the income picture for Alberta livestock producers improved in 1982. According to Mr. Sterling, both cattle and hog prices rose in the first half of the year with hog prices achieving record levels last summer. However, they have slipped back since that time. Although cattle prices are down from their seasonal highs in May and June, they are still expected to average out above those recorded in 1981.

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Farm Cash Receipts (cont'd)

Mr. Sterling says higher prices combined with some increase in marketings provided an additional 9 per cent increase in Alberta's farm cash receipts from both livestock and livestock products. He also says that part of this increase came from the province's Beef Cattle and Sheep Support Program which provided beef cattle and sheep producers with more than $141 million.

"Farm cash receipts from hogs", says Mr. Sterling "will show the largest increase of all livestock when compared with 1981. They increased steadily from the low $60-range in January 1982 to average more than $90 per hundredweight during the summer and early fall of this year, and they are expected to remain near their current level into 1983".

However, Alberta's livestock receipts for 1983 are projected to be somewhat lower than those of 1982 because of fewer cattle marketings and no real change in prices. Alberta hog slaughter figures for 1983 should remain similiar to or above those of 1982 with 1983 prices averaging near those recorded in 1982. However, Mr. Sterling does not anticipate that this year's record hog prices will be exceeded in 1983. He predicts that prices will improve moderately for those livestock products that are regulated which, in turn, will provide a moderate improvement in livestock cash receipts.

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December 6, 1982

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## ALBERTA LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS INCREASE IN SIZE

Livestock operations in Alberta are gradually shifting from smaller to larger holdings, according to statistics from the 1976 and 1981 Census of Agriculture.

Michael Adam, Agriculture's livestock statistician, reports a total of 2,962 operations accounted for 36 per cent of the province's cattle in 1976 compared with 2,836 operations accounting for 42 percent in 1981. Significantly, in 1976 the largest 3 per cent of cattle operations accounted for 20 percent of the cattle population compared with 25 per cent in 1981. The data for hog and sheep operations revealed similar trends, according to Mr. Adam.

The following table shows the magnitude of increase in average herd size in the province.

Number of Head per Operation

| | 1976 | 1981 | Increase (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cattle | 104 | 113 | 9 |
| Pigs | 70 | 120 | 71 |
| Sheep | 79 | 86 | 9 |

Mr. Adams says the increases in average herd size resulted from a combination of reduced farm numbers and larger animal populations, as in pigs and sheep, or from a greater percentage decline in farm numbers in relation to animal numbers, as in cattle.

Along with the increase in average herd size, the value of products sold per operation rose between the two census dates. From the comparison below it is clear that many livestock operators increased their income, despite inflation.

- (cont'd) -

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Alberta Livestock Operations Increase in Size (cont'd)

1976

Percent of operations with sales over $35,000:

Cattle - 24%

Pigs - 21%

Sheep - 16%

1981

Percent of operations with sales over $50,000:

Cattle - 34%

Pigs - 30%

Sheep - 23%

Mr. Adam reports that a considerable percentage of producers in each type of operation made more annualsales in 1981 than they did in 1976.

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CORRECTION

The market garden short course scheduled for Bonnyville on February 2 and 3 will be held at the Lakelander Motor Hotel not at the Northlander Motor Hotel as previously announced.

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## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO ALBERTA FARMERS

The new edition of the publication entitled "Assistance Available to Alberta Farmers" contains an update of existing programs that are available to farmers from the provincial and federal governments and features seven programs that have been added to the list since the May 1982 edition was published.

Dan Hilsenteger, agricultural economist with the farm business management branch, says the publication outlines the terms for some forty-five financial assistance programs and states who qualifies for each. He also says that all farmers, regardless of their area of specialization, will find the programs of interest, and he draws special attention to the following new programs.

- Alberta Heritage Fund Mortgage Interest Reduction Program
- Canada Mortgage Renewal Plan (CMRP)
- Canada Homeownership Stimulation Plan (CHSP)
- Alberta Pioneer Repair Program
- Small Business Investment Grant

To find out more about these and the other programs, you can get a copy of "Assistance Available to Alberta Farmers" (Agdex 871) from your district agriculturist, the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0 or from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8

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## ORDER BREEDER SEED NOW

Applications for obtaining breeder seed through the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA) Select Plot Program must be received by Alberta agricultures' field crops branch in Lacombe before December 31, 1982.

The maximum plot size allowed for a Probationary Select Seed Grower is one-half hectare (about one acre), and the minimum is one-quarter hectare (about half an acre).

The maximum plot size for a Select Seed Grower is one hectare (about 2 acres). An established Select Seed Grower who wants to change from one variety to another in the same type of crop can request permission from CSGA in Ottawa to grow a select plot of both varieties for one season. However, the combined area of the two plots may not exceed one hectare.

Seed growers who wish to participate in the Select Plot Growing Program must have successfully produced the same predigreed crop for the last three years or have successfully produced it for three out of the last five years. They will then be eligible to apply for a variety of breeder seed of the kind of crop that they have had experience in growing.

Growers who wish to obtain breeder seed of a SeCan variety must apply directly to the SeCan Association, 885 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 512, Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3N2. Probationary growers who wish to produce SeCan varieties must first be approved by the Alberta Stock Seed Distribution Committee.

Application forms for ordering breeder seed and additional information regarding the Select Plot Growing Program can be obtained from: Bill Witbeck, Secretary, Alberta Stock Seed Distribution Committee, Bag Service No. 47, Lacombe, Alberta T0C 1S0 (Telephone: 782-4641).

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## ALBERTA RAM TEST DATA

If you have purebred sheep and would like to have rams tested at the Alberta Ram Test Station in 1983, it would be a good idea to book space at the station now.

John Knapp, manager of the station, says a total of 115 rams from 28 contributors were entered in this year's test which culminated in July with the sale of 49 rams. Only animals that are equal to or above the station's average for average daily gain are considered for sale. Animals that are below average either in quality or performance are culled, which means that only about 40 per cent of the rams that are tested make the annual sale.

The 49 rams that were sold last July grossed $18,980, and the top indexing animal had an average daily gain (ADG) of 0.595 kg per day. It came from the Suffolk flock of Dan Jenkins in Sherwood Park and was bought by Sudon Suffolks of Edberg for a record price of $1,100. The second highest indexing ram had an ADG of 0.576 kg per day and sold for $725.

Following is a summary of the performance and sale results of rams entered in the Alberta Ram Test Station this year.

| Breed | Number Tested | ADG (kg/day) | Number Sold | Average Price | High Price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Suffolk | 81 | 0.47 | 34 | $430.00 | $1,100.00 |
| Hampshire | 15 | 0.46 | 7 | $301.00 | $ 475.00 |
| Dorset | 14 | 0.40 | 6 | $290.00 | $ 375.00 |
| Columbia | 3 | 0.41 | 1 | $250.00 | $ 250.00 |
| Rambouillet | 2 | 0.48 | 1 | $270.00 | $ 270.00 |

To book space for the 1983 Alberta Ram Test, which runs from February 1983 until June 1983, contact John Knapp, Bag Service No.1, Airdrie, Alberta, T0M 0B0 (Telephone: 948-5101).

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## AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE

Proceedings of the Agriculture and the Environment Symposium, sponsored earlier this year by the Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists — Alberta Chapter, are now available.

They contain papers that were authored by representatives of industry and government and public interest groups, and they address a wide range of interactions between agricultural activities and the natural environment. The issues discussed include: land reclamation, the effect of sulphur deposition on livestock, conflicts between agricultural development and wildlife, the preservation of agricultural land and the potential impact of water management schemes.

The proceedings can be obtained for a fee of $10 from the Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists — Alberta Chapter, P.O. Box 12, Substation 11, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2E0.

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December 6, 1982

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## CROSS METRIC BAKEWARE OFF YOUR XMAS LIST

Are you thinking of giving metric bakeware presents this Christmas? According to Catherine Sinnott of Alberta Agriculture's home economics laboratory, you can cross them off your Christmas list.

She concedes that more and more metric recipes are being developed and she also concedes that there will probably be an even wider variety of metric festive recipes this Christmas than in the previous years. However, she points out that it is a misconception to think that it is necessary to have metric bakeware to bake metric recipes. And she further points out that the difference between conventional bakeware and metric bakeware is that the former is designated by dimension (example 9 x 9-inch pan) while the latter is designated by volume (example 2.5h).

All you have to do to find the metric volume of a conventional pan is to take your metric liquid measure and measure the amount of water it takes to fill the pan "This" says Ms. Sinnott 'will give you the metric volume of the pan. When you have established its volume, mark it on a piece of adhesive tape and stick the tape to the bottom of the pan for future reference

The following chart, submitted my Ms. Sinnott, lists the metric volume and approximate metric dimensions of some common bakeware items. You will see that the 2 L square cake pan is similar to the old 8 x 8-inch cake pan and that the 2.5 L square cake pan is similar to the old 9 x 9 inch pan.

- (cont d) -

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Cross Metric Bakeware Off Your Xmas List (cont'd)

| ITEM | VOLUME | DIMENSIONS (Approx) |
|---|---|---|
| **Rectangular** | | |
| Cake pan | 3.5 L | 33 x 23 x 5 cm |
| | 3 L | 28 x 18 x 5 cm |
| Jelly roll pan | 2 L | 38 x 26 x 2 cm |
| Loaf pan | 1.5 L | 21 x 11 x 7 cm |
| | 2 L | 23 x 13 x 8 cm |
| **Round** | | |
| Layer cake pan | 1.2 L | 20 x 4 cm |
| | 1.5 L | 23 x 4 cm |
| Tube pan | 3 L | 22 x 10 cm |
| | 4 L | 25 x 11 cm |
| Pie plate | 1 L | 23 x 3 cm |
| | 1.2 L | 25 x 3 cm |
| **Square** | | |
| Cake pan | 2 L | 20 x 5 cm |
| | 2.5 L | 23 x 5 cm |

## OATMEAL CARMELITAS

32 caramels
75 ml milk
250 ml all-purpose flour
250 ml rolled oats
175 ml brown sugar
2 ml baking soda
1 ml salt
175 ml butter or margarine
250 ml chocolate chips
125 ml chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 180 C

Melt caramels in milk, cool slightly

In a large bowl combine flour, rolled oats, brown sugar, baking soda, salt and butter. Press half of crumbs into a 2.5 L cake pan

Bake at 180 C for 10 min; remove from oven. Sprinkle with chocolate chips and walnuts. Spread carefully with caramel misture. Sprinkle with remaining crumb mixture

Bake at 180 C for 15 to 20 min, or until lightly browned.

Chill 1 to 2 h. Cut into bars.

Yield: 36 dainty bars



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## ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC SERVICES APPOINTED

H. B. McEwen, Alberta's deputy minister of agriculture, has announced the appointment of C. Douglas Radke to the position of assistant deputy minister (ADM) responsible for planning and economic services.

Mr. Radke assumes this position after having been acting co-ordinator of the federal Grain Transport Authority (GTA) since January 1979. During that time he led the GTA in its attempts to expand and improve Canada's grain transportation and handling system. Canadian grain exports in 1981-82 totalled more than 43 per cent above the export level average in the 1970's.

As ADM of planning and economic services, Mr. Radke will oversee a staff of 90 whose activities are directed at meeting the needs of the department and the agricultural industry at large. They include providing a broad range of economic services such as financial and farm business management, statistics, market analysis, production and resource economics and research and analysis of policy issues and problems facing agriculture in Alberta.

A graduate of the University of Alberta and holder of an M.A. in public administration from Carleton University in Ontario, Mr. Radke brings considerable public sector experience to his new position; experience that was gained at both the provincial and federal levels. Prior to joining the federal government in 1979, he held the position of chairman of the Alberta Motor Transport Board. His previous positions include director of research and planning for Alberta Transportation, executive assistant to the Alberta Minister of Transportation, executive assistant to the Alberta Minister of Agriculture, board member and secretary of the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council and executive assistant to the director of Alberta Agriculture's Program Development Division.

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## SUPERVISOR OF HOME ECONOMICS SPECIALISTS APPOINTED

The director of Alberta Agriculture's home economics and 4-H division, Irene Leavitt, and the head of the home economics branch, Shirley Myers, have announced the appointment of Aileen Whitmore to the position of supervisor of home economics specialists.

In this position, Ms. Whitmore will be located in Edmonton, and she will be responsible for assessing client needs for home economics information and education as well as for developing short and long-term policies, plans, and strategies related to the effective implementation of home economics programs across the province. These will be in the areas of family resource management, foods and nutrition, family living and clothing and textiles. She will also be responsible for co-ordinating home economics resource materials and for developing specialized information for distribution to the public.

Ms. Whitmore was born and raised in Taber. She obtained a B.H.E. from the University of British Columbia in 1957 and a Professional Teaching Certificate from the University of Saskatchewan in 1964. She obtained an M.Sc. from Oregon State University in the United States in 1979, having specialized in foods and nutrition and rural sociology.

After graduating from the University of British Columbia and until 1966, Ms. Whitmore was employed as a home economist by the Saskatchewan Power Corporation in Regina. She spent the next two years teaching school, including high school home economics. She spent the following two years as an independent consultant. From 1970 until her present appointment, Ms. Whitmore was provincial food and nutrition specialist at Alberta Agriculture's home economics laboratory in Edmonton.

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# AGRI-NEWS

December 13, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ALBERTA AGRICULTURE'S MARKETING SECTOR REORGANIZED

Barry Mehr, assistant deputy minister of marketing, has announced the reorganization of Alberta Agriculture's marketing sector so that it would more effectively serve Alberta's food system.

In the reorganization, market development and support services to the province's agriculture and food products industry will be increased through the utilization of all of the department's resources in program development. The marketing sector will provide services to Alberta's producers, processors and marketers to ensure that a supply response is generated for opportunities that are identified as being achievable. And the marketing sector will consist of a highly skilled and a highly specialized group that will encourage a market orientation to the department's efforts in assisting the agrifood industry to take advantage of all opportunities.

The marketing services division of the marketing sector, under its director, Dennis Glover, will support and encourage the growth and development of Alberta's agriculture and food industry through the provision of comprehensive services of a specialized nature to assist the province's agrifood industry in meeting its market development objectives. This will be achieved through the marketing sector's agriculture processing development branch, the business analysis branch, the food laboratory branch and the newly created agrifood development branch.

The market development division, under its executive director, Cliff Wulff, will provide market development assistance to Alberta's agriculture and food products industries And the division will develop, coordinate and implement services and support policies and programs to optimize the development and penetration of markets in Alberta, Canada, the U.S.A. and abroad for agricultural commodities, processed food and feed products and technical services.

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## CANOLA PLANT AT SEXSMITH MODERNIZED

The Northern Alberta Rapeseed Producers Cooperative Ltd. (NARP) will receive financial assistance under the Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance valued at $233,564 to upgrade its canola processing plant in Sexsmith.

Of the total assistance, $109,123 will be used to upgrade the flaking mill, to replace conveyors and to improve the seed receiving facilities. The estimated cost of this part of the upgrading project is $546,000.

Another $43,424 will be used to increase the plant's capacity by replacing and relocating its meal cooler. The estimated capital cost of this part of the project is $217,000.

Finally, $81,017 will be used to improve the plant's office and laboratory facilities. This renovation is estimated to cost $506,000.

The Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance is equally funded and jointly administered by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and Alberta Agriculture. A new three-year agreement, worth $28 million, was signed by the two governments just over a year ago.

You can obtain further information on the Canada-Alberta Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance from Dr. Jim Wiebe, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 – 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-4287).

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## FOUR CENTRAL ALBERTA FIRMS BENEFIT FROM FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT

Four central Alberta firms are to receive financial assistance under the Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance. They are Thompsenbilt Homes Ltd. of Rocky Mountain House, Quality Feeds (Alberta) Ltd. of Lacombe, Sinnamon Brothers Holdings Ltd. of Camrose and the Lone Ridge Dairy near Falun.

Thomsenbilt Homes Ltd. will receive $13,287 to build a sausage processing plant 18 miles southwest of Rocky Mountain House. The owner, John Thomsen, who has been making sausage for 14 years, says the plant is estimated to cost $40,000, and that it will produce specialty sausages, weiners and salami. It is expected to employ two people.

Quality Feeds (Alberta) Ltd. will receive $9,273 to install a high pressure boiler in its feedmill in Lacombe. The new boiler, which is expected to improve the quality of the rolled and pelleted products, is estimated to cost $46,000.

Sinnamon Brothers Holdings Ltd, will receive $3,224 to establish a sprout processing plant in Camrose, which will process and package alfalfa, wheat and bean sprouts for local supermarkets. The estimated cost of the plant is $13,000 and five jobs are expected to be created.

Lone Ridge Dairy, which produces yoghurt and cheese from goat's milk, will recieve $1,470 to expand its plant so that it can pasteurize goat's milk. Total cost of the project is estimated to be $7,300.

The Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance is equally funded and jointly administered by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and Alberta Agriculture. Since the agreement was signed in 1975 almost $20 million have gone to nutritive processors in Alberta.

You can obtain further information from Dr. Jim Wiebe, Alberta Agriculture, 9817 – 107 Street Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone : 427-4287).

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# FARM EXPENSES

Total farm operating expenses and depreciation charges for Alberta farmers in 1982 are forecast to be up 2 per cent, but to drop back by 1.3 per cent in 1983.

Chuck Sterling, head of Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch, says that increases in farm costs, inflation, interest charges, energy and energy related costs have all continued to erode farm incomes and to create cash flow problems for Alberta farmers because they have not been accompanied by a corresponding increase in cash receipts. He reports that cash operating costs are now nearly $700 million more than they were in 1979, and he expects total operating and depreciating charges to increase by $45 million or to exceed the $3 billion mark in 1982. This figure would represent nearly 80 per cent of Alberta farmers' total cash receipts in 1982.

Mr. Sterling says many Alberta farmers were caught unprepared for the present economic situation and are now implementing all possible ways of holding costs in line with anticipated incomes. Purchases of farm machinery and equipment, for example, dropped dramatically in 1982, and some farmers had to refinance their debts to match their debt payments with their incomes. Still others either have or will be cutting back on their inputs to keep their costs down. And present land price trends and the reduction in land sales are further indications of the tight money situation that has been caused by higher expenses and lower incomes.

According to Mr. Sterling, interest costs are still the largest single expense to most Alberta farmers, even though rates have continued to fall in 1982. Projections of total interest costs to farmers, which include the refunds from Alberta's Small Business and Farm Interest Shielding Program, show them to be below those of 1981. Further declines and fewer loans being taken out next year are expected to further reduce interest costs in 1983.

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Farm Expenses (cont'd)

Total farm machinery expenses, including farm fuels and other petroleum products, will reach $570 million in 1982 compared with $490 million in 1981. In 1982 farmers repaired and upgraded older equipment as opposed to purchasing new machinery.

Fertilizer, lime and other crop expenses increased by near 3 per cent in 1982 compared with 1981, despite a 3 per cent drop in fertilizer usage. However, fertilizer prices increased by more than 5 per cent in 1982. Projections for 1983 show a slight increase in the costs of pesticides, herbicides and crop seed. Although there will be a marginal reduction in their use, prices will rise.

Feed and other liviestock expenses will prove to have been lower in 1982 because of lower feed grain prices compared with 1981. And as farmers cut costs, a further reduction in feed expenses is expected to occur in 1983.

Depreciation charges on buildings and machinery are forecast to have decreased by 6 per cent for buildings and to have increase by 3 per cent for machinery by the end of 1982. And a substantial reduction in new purchases is expected for 1983.

Taxes, gross farm rent, wages for farm labor and utility expenses for 1982 will remain similar to those of 1981. While the cost of some of these inputs has risen during the past year, an expected decrease in the amount of farm labor and gross farm rent will keep the total expenditure at $404 million compared with $406 million in 1981.

Mr. Sterling reports that total operating expenses and depreciation charges are expected to be $40 million lower in 1983 than they were in 1982. If this is the case, it will be the first time that Alberta farm operating and depreciation charges have decreased since 1970. However, in terms of constant dollars, the cost of operating a farm in Alberta today is double what it was in 1970.

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December 13, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MORE IBT PESTICIDES CLEARED

Federal Health and Welfare Minister, Monique Begin, declared in a recent press release that another 16 of the 97 pesticides that were involved in the Industrial Bio-Test (IBT) scandal have now been cleared of health hazard concerns.

This brings the total number of pesticides that have been cleared to date to 54. Another 43 are still being reviewed, but most are expected to be cleared within the next year.

In 1977 the U.S. firm, Industrial Bio-Test Laboratories, was found to have falsified the safety data on many of the pesticides that it had been asked to test for health hazards by the manufacturers. Since that time, Canada's Health and Welfare Department has been reviewing the IBT data, and the manufacturers have been asked to repeat the tests when the data have been suspect. As the results of the new tests are received, health and welfare officials review the data and clear the product when applicable.

However, many of the pesticides that are still under review are widely used for agricultural purposes in Alberta. Until they are cleared, they will continue to carry labels which are designed to alert users to the fact that they should take extra safety measures when handling them.

According to Dr. Moe Hussain, Alberta Agriculture's pesticide issues coordinator, farmers in this province were notified last spring of the status of the IBT pesticides, and they were warned to read and follow the label directions very carefully.

Regarding the possible presence of IBT-tested pesticides in food, Dr. Hussain points out that Ms. Begin said in an April 1982 press release that: "My department has continued to conduct extensive investigations for pesticides in domestic and imported food samples. Residues have been detected only at very low levels in a small percentage of these analyses". And she assures us that: "Canadians receive extremely limited exposure to IBT chemicals".

A further update on the IBT situation is expected in March, 1983.

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December 13, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## UPDATE ON SOURCES OF FARM BUSINESS CREDIT IN ALBERTA

Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch has released a new edition of the publication "Sources of Farm Business Credit In Alberta". It is designed to provide information on the agricultural credit programs that are available to Alberta farmers through government agencies, chartered banks and credit unions.

Harry Warne of the farm business management branch reports that some major changes in program outlines have taken place since the April 1982 edition of "Sources of Farm Business Credit in Alberta" was published. Of special note are the following:

- The Agricultural Development Corporation has raised the maximum loan limits under its AFDL guaranteed loan program to $100,000 from $75,000.
- The Farm Credit Corporation has introduced a special farm financial assistance program for farmers who are in financial difficulty.
- The Farm Credit Corporations' interest rates on regular loans for the period October 1, 1982 to March 31, 1983 has been set at 15 3/4 per cent, and the corporation has introduced a penalty for the early repayment of loans.
- The Canadian Wheat Board has provided a new schedule for determining wheat board advances and refunds for the 1982-83 crop year.

To find out more about these and other agricultural credit programs, you should get a copy of "Sources of Farm Business Credit In Alberta" (Agdex 832) from your district agriculturist, the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 or the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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December 13, 1982

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## A SIMPLE COW HERD SELECTION PROGRAM

Most commercial beef producers in Australia are apparently using simplified record of performance programs.

Peter Speers, a livestock specialist exchangee from New South Wales, Australia, who was with Alberta Agriculture last summer, said a large percentage of commercial beef producers in his country are using modified, less sophisticated performance programs as alternatives to the national record of performance program. This is because they feel the latter entails too much recording, they do not feel at home with the computer print-outs and they do not feel that their national program is flexible enough. Also, they dislike the extra stock handling that the program necessitates, and they say that the record of performance reports are received too late to help them with their culling and marketing decisions.

According to Mr. Speers, the modified programs that commercial beef producers have adopted are based on the premise that a heifer's early performance is closely correlated with her lifetime average performance. Hence, the program concentrates on heifer selection rather than on cow selection. Mr. Speers said "The objective of such programs is to maintain productive animals and to ensure genetic improvement, while, at the same time, minimizing record keeping, extra work and animal stress. Selection is based on yearling weight, fertility, confirmation and milk production".

Although there are a number of variations to the programs, the one outlined below is probably the most popular. It is concerned with evaluating heifer calves from birth until they wean their first calf, and it involved eight steps.

The first step entails weighing and ear tagging all the heifer calves in the cow herd at branding time.

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A Simple Cow Herd Selection Program (cont'd)

The second step entails culling weaned heifer calves for obvious conformation faults (about 5 per cent) and culling about 5 per cent of the shiniest, fattest and heaviest heifer calves. The reason for the latter culling is that Australian beef producers believe that these animals are unlikely to breed and rear top quality progeny because of too much fat or because they are too masculine.

The third step takes place when the heifers are 14 months old. At this time they are weighed and their branding time weight is subtracted from their present weight. From 20 to 30 per cent of the lowest gainers (depending upon the emphasis placed on yearling weight in the selection program) are culled.

The fourth step involves breeding. The heifers are bred earlier than the cow herd, using four bulls for every 100 heifers, over an eight to 10-week period.

Step five is the pregnancy test and all "empty" heifers (about 5 per cent) are culled at this time. In herds where the fertility level is good, this step is often omitted.

Step six relates to calving. Heifers that have difficulty calving are examined, and if the problem is believed to be theirs (not due to such factors as a leg turned back, breech birth, etc.), they are culled.

Step seven involves weighing and tagging at branding time all the calves from these first-calf heifers. The Australians would prefer to weigh the calves at birth, but this is rarely practical. However, the age range among the calves is only about six weeks.

Step eight involves weighing the calves again at weaning time and deducting their branding time weights. The lowest gaining heifer and steer calves are put back with the heifers where they return to their dams, thereby identifying the poor milkers which are then culled. Usually about a third of the steer and about a third of the heifer calves are "mothered up" in this way.

- (cont'd) -

A Simple Cow Herd Selection Program (cont'd)

Mr. Speers said the above steps usually mean that from 13 to 15 per cent of the cow herd is made up of replacement heifers. And he pointed out that the replacements have been selected for all the important commercial traits – growth rate, fertility and milk production – which they are likely to continue to display throughout their lives.

He also said that the only reasons mature cows are culled under the above program are for failure to conceive and for physical breakdown. The culling age is optional in most Australian commercial beef herds.

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Alberta
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Print Media Branch

December 13, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# ALBERTA HONEY SITUATION

Producer prices for Alberta bulk honey in 1982 are expected to average between $1.30 and $1.38 per kg, which would be slightly lower than the average price in 1981. This situation is expected to prevail despite the lower level of production that will be recorded for 1982.

However, according to Fred Boyce of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, continued strong export sales of honey, plus the expected recovery in the world economy, could initiate some price improvement early in 1983.

Mr. Boyce reports that Alberta's 1982 honey production is estimated at 8.3 million kg, which would be down by 21 per cent compared with 1981's record production level of 10.5 million kg and down by 10 per cent compared with the provincial 10-year production average of 9.2 million kg.

Honey yields in the northern half of the province were substantially reduced by a late spring combined with extremely dry weather until July. The Peace River region, where drought and a reduced clover acreage limited the nectar flow and the availability of bee pastures, was the most seriously affected. Mr. Boyce says the honey yield in that area dropped to 36 kg per colony, which is only half the last five-year average yield. The yield in the northern ea of the province dropped by nearly 8 kg per colony compared with the 1981 yield, and compared with the long-term average for the area, again due to drought conditions. Honey yields in central and southern Alberta were generally in line with the long-term averages.

Canadian's 1982 honey crop is estimated at 31.9 million kg, which represents a drop of 8.3 per cent from the 1981 level of 34.8 million kg. In addition to Alberta, a large production decrease was reported in Quebec and smaller decreases were reported in the Maritimes.

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Alberta Honey Situation (cont'd)

Mr. Boyce says the export potential for Canada's 1982-83 crop year is favorable at the present time. Several major exporting countries have experienced weather related honey production problems, and these have been particularly significant in Mexico, Australia, New Zealand and to a lesser extent China. However, these production decreases have been partially offset by production increases in the United States, Brazil and Argentina. Mr. Boyce thinks that lower production on a world basis should improve export opportunities, but he warns that currency considerations, especially the appreciation of the Canadian dollar in relation to currencies other than the United States dollar, and the depressed world economy, could limit price improvements.

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## LIME SEMINARS

"Liming Your Soils" will be the topic of discussion at seminars that are scheduled to be held at Eckville, Rocky Mountain House, Sundre and Rimbey in January 1983.

The guest speaker at each seminar, Doug Penney, Alberta Agriculture's soil fertility specialist, will discuss the theory of pH and lime as they relate to the soil, and present experimental data to show crop responses that have been obtained from liming. He will also cover the various aspects of lime materials and lime quality.

The seminars at each location will include a discussion of government liming programs by the local district agriculturist. These programs are called the Lime Freight Assistance Program and the Range and Soil Improvement Program, and both are designed to reduce the cost of liming.

The seminars are scheduled as follows.

- Eckville – Community Centre – 7.30 p.m. – January 11
- Rocky Mountain House – Dovercourt Community Hall – 1 p.m. – January 12
- Sundre – McDougall Hall – 1.30 p.m. – January 13
- Rimbey – Provincial Building – 7 p.m. – January 13.

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## DAIRY FARM WORKERS' TRAINING PROGRAM BEGINS AT OLDS

Olds College is accepting applications for their 14-week Dairy Farm Workers' Training Program that starts on January 7, 1983.

The program was developed in response to requests from dairymen, and is designed to train people to handle the milking operations and related tasks on a modern dairy farm. An advisory committee, made up of dairy farmers, dairy experts and Alberta Agriculture dairy specialists, developed the curriculum, and they continue to have an input into the program.

The program covers the care and feeding of dairy cows, breeding, housing and the day-to-day management of a dairy herd. Participants will learn how to produce high quality milk through good milking practices, how to properly maintain and use dairy facilities and equipment and how to rear dairy herd replacements. There will also be a two-week session on artificial insemination training, and this year the program will include a two-week period that will be devoted to practical experience. To facilitate this experience, the college will place students with local dairy farmers.

And to ensure a personal approach to the training, only 12 applicants on a first come, first served basis will be accepted. No experience in dairying is necessary, but applicants must have a grade 10 education or the equivalent.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from the Registrar, Olds College, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

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## SAV-A-LIFE (ANIMAL)

Many people who drive a car have struck an animal which is crossing the road in front of them, often with disastrous results to both the animal and the car. Now there is a gadget on the market that will reduce the chances of such a mishap occurring.

Arnold Stearman of Alberta Agriculture reports that the March 1982 issue of the "Society for Range Management Newsletter" contains an article that describes the gadget, which is called Sav-A-Life and which was recently introduced into the United States from Australia.

It is a 5-cm long, bullet-shaped object that is mounted on the front of the car. At speeds of more than 50 km/hr air rushing through the cylinder produces a sound that is audible to most animal species for a distance of almost half a kilometer. The sound is ultrasonic and inaudible to human beings, but it apparently frightens off most animals. For some reason sheep and camels are less responsive than other animal species.

As far as is known there is no outlet in Canada for this gadget, but it can be obtained from Marcla Sales Inc., Suite 10 M, 382 Central Park West, New York, NY. 10025, U.S.A. Sav-A-Life costs $16.95 plus $1.25 for mailing — US funds.

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## CHOOSING A CHRISTMAS TURKEY

Are you aware that the only difference between a Canada Grade A Christmas turkey and a Utility turkey is that the latter has a small defect like a piece of torn skin, a piece of missing wing, a crooked breast-bone, etc. Since the quality of the meat is the same in both categories of birds, the utility bird is the best buy because it is normally about 4.5 per kg less than a grade A bird.

Grade A turkeys are often packed with such options as a butter-basting or a "pop-up" indicator that shows when the bird is cooked. Remember, however, you will pay quite a lot extra for these options.

Linda St. Onge, Alberta Agriculture's assistant food and nutrition specialist, suggests allowing approximately 0.2 to 0.3 kg (1/2 to 3/4 pound) per person when choosing a turkey. Hence, if you are expecting 12 people for your Christmas dinner, you would need a bird that weighs between 2.7 and 4 kg. For 20 people, you would need a bird that weighs 4.5 and 6.8 kg.

If you plan on buying a fresh turkey, do not buy it more than two or three days before you intend to cook it, Ms. St. Onge says. And you should allow 10 hours thawing time per kg, which means a 5 kg turkey would take two days to thaw. If you have to thaw your turkey at room temperature because of lack of space in the refrigator, or a shortage of thawing time, be sure to either cook or refrigerate it as soon as it has thawed. When thawing it at room temperature, allow three hours per kilogram. Ms. St. Onge says you will get a more even thaw if you wrap the turkey in newspaper (leave the plastic wrap on as well), and then put it in a paper bag.

She also says you should either stuff your turkey just before you cook it or else cook the stuffing separately. And for safety's sake, never stuff your turkey the night before.

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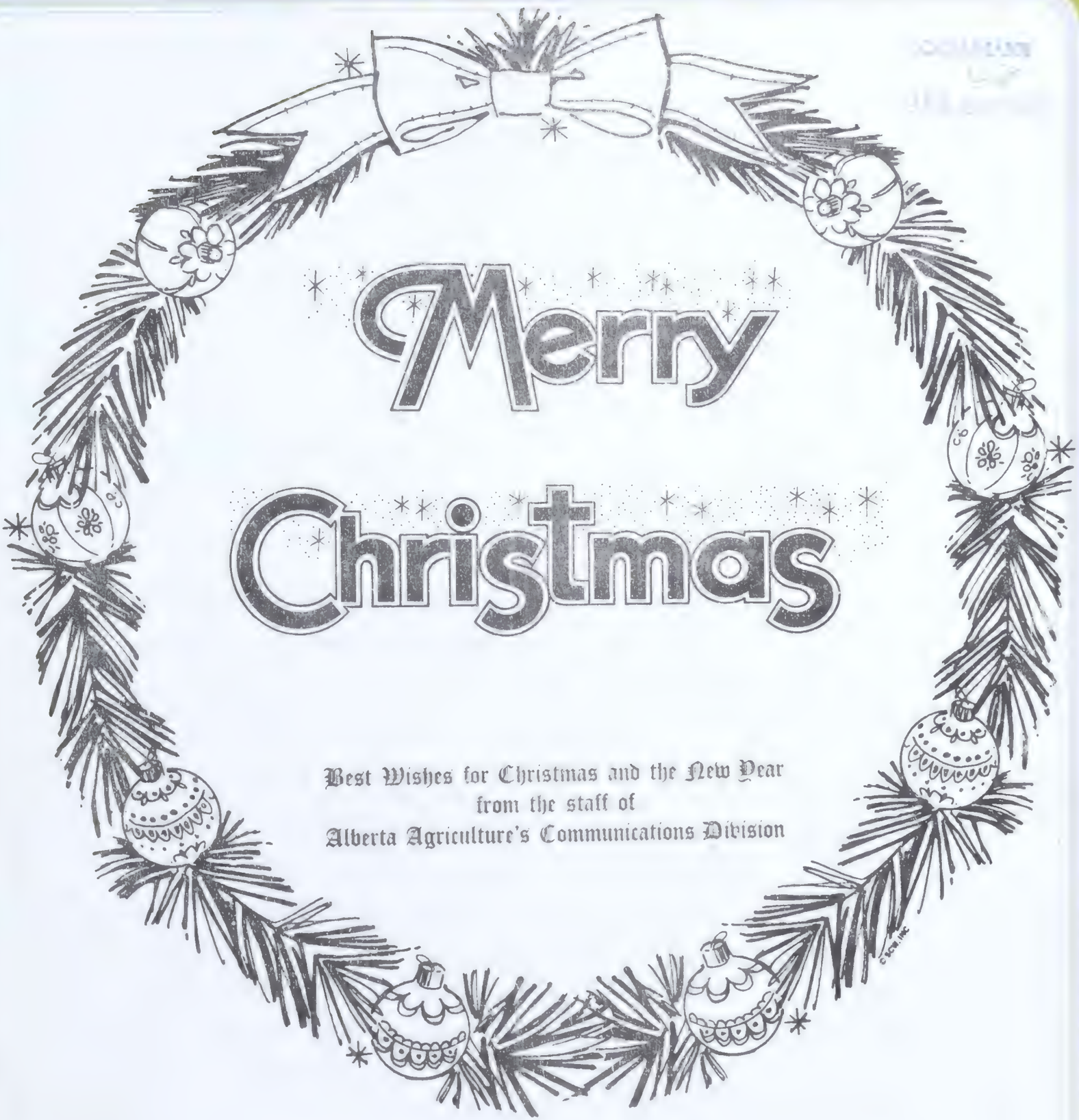
# AGRI-NEWS




Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year
from the staff of
Alberta Agriculture's Communications Division

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December 20, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE*

LeRoy Fjordbotten

*There aren't too many occasions during the year when we can relax a little and forget the tensions of the day. In fact, there is only one such time that I know of and that's the Christmas season.*

*Whether you're a farmer, student, housewife, laborer – in fact it makes no difference what you do – Christmas and New Year's are a time to enjoy life, to reflect on what has passed and what is to come. It's a time to review things calmly and rationally, and to look at the mistakes we've made and the opportunities in front of us, as well as what we can do to make the most of the 365 days that lie ahead.*

*In many ways agriculture is no different than any other aspect of our economy. It has troubles. It has opportunities. The bottom line is..... we will survive. I can think of no better reason than that to start each day or each year with optimism because I know we are an industry that has the will to meet challenges, to be productive..... to survive!*

*To all those in agriculture, and we're all involved as producers or consumers, I extend best wishes for a very happy and blessed holiday season and a prosperous and productive New Year.*

*LeRoy Fjordbotten*
*Minister of Agriculture*

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## BRITISH SHOW GREAT INTEREST IN CANADIAN CATTLE

The first Canadian-style auction of cattle with Canadian bloodlines took place recently in Kendal in the United Kingdom. Most of the animals were either the progeny of Canadian stock or were imported from Canada.

Buyers apparently came to the sale from all parts of Britain, and those from Ulster were out in full force to take advantage of Northern Ireland's recent decision to allow the importation of both live cattle and beef again.

George Ballantyne, secretary of the North British Hereford Breeders Association said after the sale that it is evident that top United Kingdom breeders are interested in Canadian cattle, and that they are prepared to pay the extra price to obtain them.

Doug Hill, trade director with Alberta Agriculture's market development division, says Canada's influence on the Hereford breed in Britain has increased during the past few years as breeders have sought to increase the size of their cattle.

Further proof of the United Kingdom's interest in Canadian bloodlines was evident during a recent visit of United Kingdom cattle buyers to Alberta. They purchased about $600,000 worth of Alberta Hereford and Angus cattle.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# ALBERTA NET FARM INCOMES

Alberta farmers' net incomes in 1982 and 1983 will be substantially lower than they were in 1981.

The head of Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch, Chuck Sterling, reports that farm operating expenses and depreciation charges for 1982 are forecast to have increased 1.5 per cent faster than total cash receipts, which are expected to have dropped by just over 2 per cent when compared with 1981 receipts. And total cash receipts in 1983 are expected to drop by $190 million even though operating expenses and depreciation charges are expected to fall by $40 million.

Also, the value per tonne of the record stocks of grain held by Alberta farmers has fallen. However, an anticipated improvement in the grain stock position by the end of 1983, and a possible improvement in prices during the same period, should result in a less negative value of inventory change for 1983.

According to Mr. Sterling, the cash flow situation of Alberta farmers as reflected in realized net income is grave. He forecasts net realized income for 1982 will be $835 million, which would be down by 13 per cent from 1981. He also expects a further decline of 18 per cent for 1983. This means that an individual farmer can expect to have 20 per cent less cash available after he has paid his cash expenses in 1983 than he had in 1981.

Net farm incomes in Alberta are projected to be $735 million for 1982 and $630 million in 1983. The first figure represents a reduction of 25 per cent compared with 1981 and the second figure represents a further decline of 14.3 per cent.

"Expressed in terms of purchasing power", says Mr. Sterling, "the 1983 net farm income of $630 million will be the lowest recorded in Alberta for 25 years. The previous low was recorded in 1957 and amounted to 36 per cent of farm cash receipts at that time. The net farm income estimate for 1983 represents only 18 per cent of total cash receipts.

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## A BRUCELLOSIS - FREE PROVINCE

The director of Alberta Agriculture's animal health division, Dr. R. G. Christian, congratulates Agriculture Canada's veterinarians and staff, Alberta's cattlemen and other members of the livestock industry for making Alberta a brucellosis-free province.

He says that there were no cattle herds under quarantine for brucellosis in November, and that this situation marks an important milestone in the elimination of the disease from Alberta's cattle population. November was the first time since the brucellosis program was initiated many years ago that there have been no cattle under suspicion of having brucellosis.

In addition to causing abortions in cattle, brucellosis causes undulant fever in human beings who contract the disease.

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## A NEW ERA UNFOLDING

We appear to be entering an age when biological sciences will be in the forefront of new advances in both science and technology.

Although the past century was the age of chemistry, and man has wrought vast changes and improvements to human existence through chemistry, there has been a strong public outcry during the past decade against the use of chemicals, particularly concerning the disposal of the wastes that have resulted from their manufacture. This public reaction, plus advances in biological science, have caused the scientific community to look at biological solutions for biological problems.

For example, plant pathologists, microbiologists and climatologists, working together, have discovered that certain bacteria cause plants to freeze. When these bacteria are absent, plants can apparently withstand temperatures that are well below 0° C. A similar group of scientists, who have been working on weather modification, have learned that certain bacteria may be more effective than silver iodide for seeding clouds to suppress hail.

And scientific effort is being increasingly directed towards allelopathy (the ability of one plant to affect another) and other biological controls to reduce our dependence on chemicals in the area of weed control.

Then there are biologists who are developing methods for using aquatic plants to purify sewage effluent, and others are working on microorganisms that will break down chemical wastes.

It appears that there are biological alternatives to many of the chemicals now in use, and even though the necessary plants and "bugs" may not be available immediately, they will be playing an increasingly important role in all aspects of agriculture and other industries in the next 10 to 12 years.

*The above article was submitted by Stan Powers who recently retired from Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch.*

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## FEEDLOT PRODUCTION SEMINAR

The Feedlot Ration is the theme of the 5th annual feedlot production seminar that will be held in Ponoka on January 11, 1983.

Dr. Tim Stanton, extension feedlot specialist at Colorado State University in the U.S.A will discuss protein, energy and vitamin requirements in a feedlot ration as well as feed quality, feed sources and ration cost considerations.

Dr. Roger Wyett of the International Minerals and Chemical Corporation, Indiana, U.S.A., will talk about the trace mineral requirements of feedlot cattle and deficiency symptoms.

Ron Weisenburger, head of Alberta Agriculture's nutrition division, will talk about feedlot rations and supplement requirements in this province and economic returns from Alberta feedlots. He will also provide an update on feedlot demonstration projects, including those that are being carried out under Alberta Agriculture's Farming for the Future Program.

Dr. Gary Matheson, nutritionist at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, will report on the research he is doing on new feed additives and new growth implants.

Dr. Chris Jensen, a veterinary inspector with Agriculture Canada in Red Deer, will discuss Iver-Mectin, a new product that is designed for both internal and external parasite control.

Finally, a panel made up of cattle producers will give their views on the following topics: Starting Cattle on Feed, Moving Cattle Towards Full Feed, and the Finishing Period.

January 7, 1983 is the deadline for registering for this seminar, and the registration fee is $20 per person or $30 for a husband and wife.

You can register at the district office in Rimbey, Camrose, Lacombe, Wetaskiwin or Ponoka.

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## FARM SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Big tractors, small children and hazardous situations are some of the elements depicted in the 1982 Farm Safety Poster Contest Winning Entries that are listed below.

Grade 1

Cameron Morton – Olds
Katie Wipf – Hanna
Fetina Snegirev – Eaglesham
James Peter Gross – Pincher Creek

Grade 2

Riley Boll – Mayerthorpe
Janine Rossler – Cochrane
Cameron Stobbe – Onoway
Shannon Kambeitz – Coal Dale

Grade 3

Michelle Renee Benkendorf – Andrew
Marc Soehngen – Brooks
Peter Bos – Killam
Alwin Bouchard – Altario

Grade 4

Shirley Fedyna – Thorhild
Doug Dammann – Alliance
James Morris – High Prairie
Crispin Bryce – Manning

Over 6,000 posters were entered in the contest by elementary school students from across the province. The 16 winning entries listed above were chosen by Alberta Agriculture's farm safety branch staff for the style of their presentation, and especially, for the relevant farm safety messages that they conveyed. The contest is sponsored every year by the farm safety branch.

All the winning posters have been printed in a safety workbook entitled "A Child's Guide To Farm Safety" which will be distributed throughout the province.

Farm safety branch staff have been visiting the schools of the winning students during the last month and presenting these students with a copy of the workbook and a special safety award.

Additional information on the poster contest and the workbook can be obtained from:

Alberta Farm Safety Branch
Agriculture Building
9718 - 107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2C8

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## PRINCIPLES OF LAW FOR RURAL ALBERTA

The University of Alberta has recently published a booklet entitled "Principles of Law for Rural Alberta."

Funded by the Law Society of Alberta, compiled by lawyers and accountants and edited by K.D. Smith, an Edmonton lawyer, and Len Bauer of the University of Alberta, the publication consists of a collection of papers dealing with such important topics as land law, wills and estate planning, expropriation, income taxation and commercial law. The papers were presented at a seminar on farm law that was sponsored by the Department of Rural Economy and the University of Alberta's Faculty of Extension.

Copies of the "Principles of Law for Rural Alberta" can be obtained, free of charge, from the Faculty of Extension, Corbett Hall, (82 Avenue and 112 Street) University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2G4.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## LIFE INSURANCE

What does level term life insurance mean? It means that the size of both the death benefit and the amount payable in annual premiums do not change during the life of the policy. However, because risk of death increases with age, insurance companies issue level term coverage for only a short period – five years is common.

What happens when you outlive the term and want to buy coverage for another term? You are expected to pay a considerably higher premium for the identical death benefit because you are now several years older. Providing the original policy was guaranteed renewable, you are automatically entitled to further coverage, regardless of your current state of health. If, however, your original policy was not guaranteed renewable, and you want to renew it, you will have to re-apply for coverage when your policy expires. If your health has deteriorated in the intervening period, you may find it more difficult, if not impossible, to obtain coverage. Hence, if you think that you will want to renew your policy at the end of its term, make sure that your original policy is guaranteed renewable.

The other type of term insurance that is available is called decreasing term. It is issued for a longer period – 10 or 20 years and sometimes until age 65. With this type of term insurance the premiums remain constant during the life of the policy, but the death benefit decreases by a fixed amount every year until it reaches zero at the end of the coverage. This condition reflects the fact that the risk of death increases with age – the older you get, the less protection your insurance dollar will buy.

There are two things to remember about term insurance. With both the level term and the decreasing term, you are only buying protection. You do not receive any money if you outlive the policy. The other thing is that if you default in any way on term insurance and you wish to to resume coverage, you will be required to re-apply. Your success or failure when

- (cont'd) -

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Life Insurance (cont'd)

re-applying will be influenced by your occupation and recreational activities.

A term insurance policy can usually be converted to cash-value insurance coverage without evidence of insurability. Cash-value is the second major type of life insurance. It does provide you with money if you outlive the policy.

This type of insurance is a combination of decreasing term insurance and a build-up of reserves referred to as cash values. At any given time, the death benefit payable (called the face value) equals the sum of the decreasing term component plus the cash value.

The most common types of cash-value insurance are whole-life policies, which can provide coverage for the whole life and on which no further premiums are payable after age 85 or 90, and endowment policies, which are written to an age that is reasonably within one's life span — for 20 years or until age 65.

Cash-value insurance was created to provide relief against the fact that the cost of protection increases with age and to combine an undiminishing death benefit with a constant or level premium for as long as desired. Cash-value insurance is an excellent way of attaining these two goals.

When you compare the cost of a whole-life cash-value policy with the cost of a five-year level term guaranteed renewable policy that pays the same death benefit, you will find that the premium for a whole-life cash-value insurance policy remains the same for its life, while the premium for the level term policy increases every five years, if it is a five-year renewable policy. However, the premium for the whole-life policy can be as much as four times higher than the initial premium for the level term policy.

Hence, if you are considering buying cash-value insurance, ask yourself if you can afford to pay the higher premium for it during your early, lower income years when you could get the same amount of protection or death benefit for much less on a term basis.

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Life Insurance (cont'd)

The above information and information on disability insurance (which every woman who works to support herself should consider) and on where to get help in this area is contained in a publication entitled "Life Insurance and Disability Insurance – The Woman's Point of View". It is published by the Alberta Women's Bureau and can be obtained from the Alberta Women's Bureau, 1910 Capitol Square, 10065 - Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3B1.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ENTERTAINING WITH ALBERTA WINES AND CHEESE

What wine should I serve with what food is a frequent question, especially at Christmas time. Although the wine you choose will be a matter of personal taste, as a general rule a dry red wine is recommended for such things as beef, meat sauces, meat and vegetable soups and Italian foods. A dry white wine is usually more compatible with such delicately flavored foods as poultry, seafood, cream soups and Chinese food. And a Rosé wine is popular with ham, veal and fruit.

Wine can also be used to enhance the flavor of foods in many other ways. For example, you can marinate red meats in red wine and white meats in white wine to create an interesting taste and also to tenderize them. Then you can add some red or white wine to your salad dressing to give it extra flavor.

You do not need a special recipe to cook with wine. All you do is substitute wine for part of the liquid in the recipe you are using, and the amount you add will depend upon your personal taste. Although the alcohol in wine evaporates during the cooking process, the flavor and aroma will remain.

Alberta now has four wineries from which you can choose a good domestic wine. They are Andrés Wines (Alberta) Ltd., Andrew Wolf Wine Cellars Ltd., Chateau Gai Wines and Jordan & Ste. Michelle Cellars Ltd.

A publication entitled "Entertaining with Alberta Wines and Cheese" is full of useful information that will simplify your entertaining. You can obtain a free copy from the Food Marketing Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 2nd Floor, Centre West Building 10035 - 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 3E1 (Telephone: 427-4036) or from the Food Marketing Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 112 - 16 Avenue N.E. Calgary, Alberta, T2E 1J5 (Telephone: 261-8452).

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December 20, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# USE CAUTION WHEN HANDLING ANIMALS

by Tracy Duncan
Alberta Farm Safety Branch

"The ox and lamb kept time pa-rum-pa-pum-pum" is a line from a carol that describes docile animals hovering admiringly over the baby Jesus.

However, since farm animals seldom behave as predictably as this, caution should always be used when handling them to avoid injuries.

Calm and deliberate speech should be used to avoid startling or angering an animal. And remember, gentle handling achieves better co-operation than rough handling or abuse, because animals will always remember rough treatment and act accordingly.

Only people with plenty of strength and experience should handle a large animal, and children should be warned to stay away.

Children need to be instructed on how to treat animals. They should be taught not to reach into pens to feed or tease animals, and to never try to approach a mother animal with her young.

Every year people are injured by farm animals in accidents that could have been prevented. By following the above safety tips from the Alberta farm safety branch injuries can be prevented and your family kept safe for the holiday season.

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## MICROWAVE COOKING PUBLICATIONS

"Adapting Recipes to the Microwave" is the name of an information sheet that has been released by Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch.

It tells you how to adapt a conventional recipe to the microwave method of cooking, and it tells you how to estimate the microwave cooking time for a conventional recipe. One of the ways it suggests is to allow a quarter to a half of the conventional cooking time, which means that a casserole that would require an hour to cook in a conventional oven would require only 15 to 30 minutes in a microwave oven.

Other points discussed in the information sheet include reducing the liquid in a conventional recipe because evaporation is greatly reduced in microwave cooking due to the shorter cooking time; reducing seasoning, again because of a reduction in evaporation, and reducing or omitting fat in recipes. The publication also tells you how to choose your power setting for different types of food and it mentions a number of foods that are best not cooked in a microwave oven.

"Adapting Recipes to the Microwave" (Homedex 1141-70-1) and a previously published information sheet entitled "Microwaving Techniques" (Homedex 1140-70) can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's district offices or from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C8.

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# AGRI-NEWS

From the Staff of
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December 27, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## A STUDY ON THE USE OF LIVESTOCK MEDICINE UNDERWAY

A study to examine and evaluate the use and possible abuse of livestock medicines in Alberta is now underway.

Dr. R. G. Christian, director of Alberta Agriculture's health of animals division, says the study was initiated in response to a request by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association. It will involve a survey of various segments of the livestock medicine industry to obtain information on the use and risks of medicines to the livestock population, and to find out whether or not the use of drugs represents a significant hazard to human health.

Most of the work involved in the study will be carried out by Dr. Verna Thompson under the direction of Alberta Agriculture's Livestock Medicine Advisory Committee. The study is being funded by Alberta Agriculture and is expected to be completed by June 1983.

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December 27, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WATER QUALITY AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Any factor that makes water unacceptable to livestock and reduces their intake will impair their performance, according to Andy Birch, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Stettler.

One of several factors that can influence water quality and, therefore, water intake by livestock is its level of total dissolved salts. Research has shown that levels of up to 7,000 ppm will not affect the gain, feed consumption or condition of cattle, but that levels of between 7,000 and 10,000 ppm may affect these performance components. Water that contains a salt level of 10,000 ppm is considered unsuitable for cattle.

Mr. Birch says nitrates are another possible contaminant of water quality. They are usually an indication that organic material is present in the water. Although both cattle and sheep can tolerate water that contains a very high level of nitrates, it is desirable to use water that contains less than 100 ppm. A high nitrate level in cattle diets has caused lower than normal conception rates, lower rates of gain and deaths.

Pigs are able to tolerate a much higher level of nitrates in water than either cattle or sheep because they do not have the bacteria to convert the nitrates into nitrites, which are toxic. However, if the appropriate bacteria are present in the water, the nitrates may be converted to nitrites and cause problems.

Mr. Birch reports that research studies have shown that all categories of pigs can tolerate salt water concentrations of up to 5,000 ppm. Although some scouring occurred in the studies, the performance of the animals was not adversely affected. The

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Water Quality and Livestock Production (cont'd)

studies also showed that growing and finishing pigs can tolerate salt levels of up to 7,000 ppm without any adverse effects on rate of gain or feed conversion.

Other sources of water contamination include blue-green algae, livestock waste and the careless disposal of agricultural chemicals. These types of contamination can be easily controlled by putting water wells and dugouts in a suitable location, and by carefully handling, storing and disposing of pesticides and herbicides.

Anyone who has just developed a new source of water for his livestock or who is concerned about possible contamination of an existing source of water would be wise to submit a sample of the water to the Alberta Veterinary Laboratory in the O.S. Longman Building in Edmonton for analysis. The analysis report will show the level of salt concentrations and any other type of contamination and state whether or not the water is suitable for livestock consumption.

"The provision of a steady supply of good, clean, fresh water will go a long way towards minimizing disease problems and maximizing animal performance," Mr. Birch says.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MANAGING THE COW FOR MAXIMUM PROFIT

A three-day seminar, entitled "Managing the Cow for Maximum Profit", the first of its kind to be held in Alberta, is scheduled to take place next April in Banff.

The program will feature speakers from England, the United States and Canada, all of whom are recognized authorities in their field. And it is designed to enable dairymen, nutritionists, extension personnel and others to stay abreast of the latest developments in dairy production and technology. The program will also provide ample opportunity for informal discussions with speakers and other resource people.

The first session of day one of the seminar will deal with Reproduction Efficiency. The second session will cover Feeding for Production and Reproduction.

The first session of day two is entitled Protein Nutrition of Dairy Cattle. The second session is entitled Labour Relations, and the third session is entitled Breeding for Optimum Milk Production.

There will be only one session on the third day and it will cover Financial Management.

Speakers will include:

- Dr. John Oldham, National Institute for Research in Dairying, Shinfield, England
- Dr. Jack Britt, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S.A.
- Dr. Larry Satter, U. S. Dairy Forage Research Centre, Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A.
- Dr. Dave Christensen, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

The seminar is being sponsored by the University of Alberta, Alberta Agriculture, the Alberta Milk Producers Association and the Alberta Dairymen's Association. And it is hoped that it will become an annual event. The fee is $95 per person.

Further information on Managing the Cow for Maximum Profit can be obtained from John Kelly, Department of Animal Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2P5 (Telephone: 432-2133).

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## BABY PIG LOSSES

Here are some facts about baby pigs losses in Alberta that you may or may not know. They were submitted by Phil Dixon, district agriculturist at Rocky Mountain House.

- The provincial average for stillborn pigs is between 5 and 7 per cent or one pig in every second litter.
- Only10 per cent of stillborn pigs are dead when farrowing begins. The remaining 90 per cent die between the start of farrowing and birth.
- A prematurely detached placenta or the umbilical cord having being broken before delivery are the usual causes of stillborn baby pigs. Such pigs are deprived of oxygen and suffocate.
- The average time between the arrival of the first piglet to be born and the last piglet to be born is 2 1/2 hours. The shortest time is about 30 minutes and the longest is about 6 hours.
- Under normal conditions baby pigs are usaully born at intervals of 15 to 20 minutes. If the interval is longer than 20 minutes, the piglet will have less vigor when it is born and will be less successful at sucking.
- The last three piglets born account for about 70 per cent of stillbirths.
- If an hour has passed since the last birth, or if the farrowing period has taken more than five hours, the chances are that the sow and the remaining piglets are in trouble.
- It is not unusual for a piglet to look dead when it is actually alive. Such a piglet has either been born in the afterbirth or it has fetal membranes covering its snout. Remove the membranes as quickly as possible from its nose and mouth, give it a brisk massage, immerse it in cold water for a second, give it colostrum or glucose and put it with its mother.

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## ALBERTA AGRICULTURE ENERGY CONSERVATION SEMINARS

The following energy conservation seminars sponsored by Alberta Agriculture are scheduled for early in 1983.

| Topic | Location | Date (1983) |
|---|---|---|
| Retrofitting | Red Deer | Jan 27 |
| Retrofitting | Provost | Feb 3 |
| New home construction and retrofitting | Vegreville | Feb 4 |
| New home construction | High River | Feb 9 |
| Retrofitting | Barrhead | Feb 11 |
| New home construction and retrofitting | Athabasca | Feb 15 |
| Movable Window Insulation | Lac La Biche | Feb 16 |
| New Home construction and retrofitting | Carstairs | Feb 23 & 24 |
| Developing the Lower Level | Pincher Creek | Feb 26 |
| Energy conference | Lethbridge | Mar 24, 25 & 26 |

For more information or to register, contact your district home economist.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SHORT DURATION GRAZING

Interest has been growing in the Short Duration Grazing (SDG) system, also referred to as the Savory Grazing Method, since it was discussed in 1978 at the First International Grasslands Congress in Denver, U.S.A.

First developed to combat range deterioration from overgrazing in Rhodesia and later introduced to Texas and New Mexico, the SDG system involves stocking pastures at a very heavy rate for about five days and then resting them for 30 to 60 days to facilitate regrowth.

According to Ross Gould, head of the special projects section of Alberta Agriculture's sheep and beef cattle branch, the idea behind the SDG system is to force the stock to eat all the forage that is available, and, at the same time, to spread trampling, urinating and dunging evenly over the whole pasture. The even distribution of natural fertilizer has a beneficial effect as does disturbing the soil for a short period. It is claimed that the latter aerates the soil and contributes to natural reseeding.

Allan Savory, who invented the SDG system, says that it will allow a stocking rate that is two to three times higher than traditional stocking rates and still enable the condition of the pasture to improve. The short periods of extremely high stocking rates also control brush without the aid of mechanical or chemical treatment.

However, as Mr. Gould points out, the SDG system is not without practical problems. For example, to avoid having to have a roundup every few days to move the cattle, the fencing pattern should, ideally, resemble the spokes in a wheel with all the fences converging on a central corral and watering facility. But such a setup might not work well in areas where there are a lot of ponds and creeks in the pasture. Another problem is the cost of the extra fencing. The extra returns obtained from such a system would have to be carefully measured against the extra costs incurred.

- (cont'd) -

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Short Duration Grazing (cont'd)

Still another problem cited by Mr. Gould is that the SDG system has been used to date only in areas where "warm season" grass species predominate. He says "We have no reports on results obtained from grass species that are similar to those found in Alberta, but Dr. Art Bailey of the University of Alberta has begun a study at the university's ranch at Kinsella on the SDG system. And an on-farm demonstration is being conducted in southern Alberta under Alberta Agriculture's Farming for the Future Program.

If the SDG system works here, its most attractive feature, according to Mr. Gould, will be that it will make it possible to recommend a pasture improvement practice that will facilitate maintaining or increasing the number of cows on pasture. He says that it has been hard to convince farmers in the past that they can increase their long-term profits by lowering their stocking rates to improve their pastures.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## AGRICULTURAL TOUR OF EUROPE

Anyone who joins the Professional Association of the Department of Agriculture (Alberta) PADA 21-day study tour to Europe next summer will see, in addition to most of the popular sights of Europe, many places that most travellers never have a chance to see.

According to the tour coordinator, Walter Dietz, who is Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Vermilion, those who participate in this tour will visit a wide variety of enterprises such as experimental stations; building construction firms; forestry operations; food processing facilities; machinery factories; textile factories; vineyards; wineries; handicraft makers; and dairy, beef, sheep and grain farms as well as farms which produce forage crops and horticultural products. He says participants will also have a chance to meet people who have travelled and worked under the International Agricultural Exchange Program.

Mr. Dietz goes on to say that a visit to Europe is not complete without going to Vienna for a dinner of wienerschnitzel and apfelstrudel and to look at the famour Lippizzan horses. "The tour by coaches will take us on scenic drives in eight Western European countries (Denmark, West Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, France, Belgium and Holland), he adds. "And there will be visits to castles and other famous places like the place where Mozart was born and world famous ski resorts. There will also be time for shopping",

The tour will leave Alberta by charter flight on July 12, 1983, for Copenhagen, Denmark, and will return on August 2, 1983. It is open to anybody who would like to participate, and it will cost $2,950 per person based on 88 participants.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from district agriculturists, district home economists and from Walter Dietz, PADA Tour Coordinator, Box 330, Vermilion, Alberta, T0B 4M0 (Telephone: 853-2811).

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## FUN AND SAFETY COMBINED IN SCHOOL WORKBOOK

Learning farm safety is fun with the new school workbook "A Child's Guide to Farm Safety". It is designed to raise farm safety awareness in children and to help reduce the alarmingly high rate of farming injuries among children.

The workbook consists of pictures in dot-to-dot form for drawing and coloring, fill-in-the-blank quizzes, short answer questions and a checkers game adapted to the safety theme as well as crossword puzzles.

The "dot-to-dot" pictures have been adapted from award winning pictures which were drawn by elementary school students for the 1982 Farm Safety Poster Contest.

Exercises and games in the workbook which is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture's farm safety branch are challenging and fun, and are designed to suit the interests of students up to grade six. In addition to developing safety awareness in students, the workbook activities develop reasoning, writing, comprehension and motor skills.

Forty thousand copies of these books have been printed and are being distributed to rural schools throughout the province. A teacher's safety lesson plan is also being distributed to enable teachers to use the workbook in the regular school curriculum.

Additional information on "A Child's Guide to Farm Safety" is available from the Alberta Farm Safety Branch, Agriculture Building, 9418 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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## ALBERTA AGRICULTURE WINS COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS

Four members of Alberta Agriculture's communications division have won awards for their submissions to the 1982 Farm Writers' Communications Awards Competition, which is sponsored each year by the Canadian Farm Writers' Federation.

Winners are as follows:

Chris Silk, audio visiual technician, who won an award of merit (the top award) for his slide presentation of forage seed production.

Barry Harris, television producer, who won honorable mention (the second highest award) for his film clip on the late Alex Charnetski who is a member of Alberta Agriculture's Hall of Fame.

Jack Howell, radio commentator, who won a blue ribbon for Alberta Agriculture's daily radio program "Call of the Land".

Pat Davidson, public affairs officer, who won a blue ribbon for her media kit on Alberta's annual Agriculture Week.

Alberta Agriculture also won an award of merit for its Farming for the Future annual report.

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## WOMEN'S BUREAU INFORMATION SHEETS

The Alberta Women's Bureau is an agency of the provincial government that provides information and referal services to citizens of Alberta and researches and prepares information on topics of particular concern to women, which is not available from other government departments.

The following information sheets are available, free of charge, from the bureau.

- Ending a Marriage — The Legal Aspects of Separation, Annulment and Divorce
- How to Prepare a Meaningful Resumé
- Alberta Labour Legislation of Interest to Women in the Paid Work Force
- Establishing a Good Credit Record
- Insurance — The Woman's Point of View
- Changing Your Name
- When You're Alone — Helping You Cope with Widowhood
- Wills and Estates for Albertans
- A Guide to Probate Procedure
- The Illegitimate Child
- Children — Custody and Access
- A Woman's Rights
- A Child's Lawyer
- Laws for Albertans

The address of the Women's Bureau is 1910 Capitol Square, 10065 - Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 3B1 (Telephone: 427-2470).

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## ADC APPOINTS NEW ASSISTANT MANAGER OF FARM LOANS

Randy W. Niven, manager of the Agricultural Development Corporation's farm lending section, has announced the appointment of Herbert C. Andersen to the position of assistant manager of farm loans in the Camrose head office.

Mr. Andersen was raised on an irrigated farm near Brooks. Upon completion of high school in Brooks, he obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta, and then obtained a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Western Ontario.

He brings to the corporation the experience he gained as an agricultural economist and as a credit officer with the federal Business Development Bank, as well as experience in management positions with Manalta Holdings Ltd. and C. J. Griffin and Associates Ltd.

Mr. Andersen is married and has two sons. He and his family will be making their home in Camrose.

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